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Local Government Service

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COST OF UNEMPLOYMENT

ITS EFFECTS ON THE RATES: WHO SHOULD BEAR THE BURDEN? ANALYSIS OF RELIEF STATISTICS

By W. IVOR JENNINGS, M.A., LL.B.
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How is the abnormal unemployment from which the country is suffering affecting local authorities? Many of them in the distressed areas complain that the burden is more than they can bear. In a memorandum, specially prepared for the National Association of Local Government Officers, from which the following are extracts, an impartial examination is made of the question. Exceptional interest attaches to the article in view of the recent decision of the Government to accept responsibility, both administratively and financially, for assisting all the able-bodied unemployed.

MR. W. IVOR JENNINGS, M.A., LL.B.

SINCE 1912 the burden of unemployment has been shared between the National Exchequer and the funds of local authorities.

The level of unemployment is best shown by the percentage of unemployed among the workers insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. The average annual figures for Great Britain (no figures are available for England and Wales alone) for the last five years show the rapid rise in the level of unemployment since 1929. Percentage of Unemployed Insured Workers: 1928, 10.8 per cent.; 1929, 10.4 per cent.; 1930, 16.1 per cent.; 1931, 21.3 per cent.; 1932, 22.1 per cent.

Effect of Legislation

The effects of this rapid increase were shown in the enormous growth of the debt upon the Unemployment Insurance Fund until drastic steps were taken, both by the Labour Government and by the National Government, in the second half of 1931 to reduce the rate of growth. But part of the increase in the cost after 1930 was due to the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1930, passed by the Labour Government, which had for one of its effects the reduction in the numbers of those applying for Poor Relief. So far as this was so, the increased cost was not a true increase, for it transferred a burden from rates to taxes. On the other hand, one of the effects of the Acts of 1931 was to transfer part of the burden back from taxes to rates, and so was not a true "economy."

The burden of unemployment upon Poor Relief is best shown by the numbers of persons who normally have some occupation and who receive Poor Relief in their own homes, together with the numbers of their dependents. The particulars below give the average number of persons in England and Wales ordinarily engaged in some regular occupation, with their dependents, who received out-relief during the months mentioned:—

Domiciliary Relief of Unemployed Persons and their Dependents—June, 1928, 410,504; September, 375,868; December, 396,369; March, 1929, 427,313; June, 354,032; September, 333,212; December, 352,478; March, 1930, 354,817 (here the Act of 1930 began to have effects); June, 1930, 232,555; September, 229,028; December, 264,981; March, 1931, 316,735; June, 284,561; September, 281,558 (here the Acts of 1931 began to have effects); December, 1931, 373,916; March, 1932, 456,374; June, 459,049; September, 543,287; December, 560,029.

These figures suggest the following conclusions: (*a*) the numbers in receipt of relief were definitely lower in 1929 than in 1928; (*b*) there was a sudden fall in numbers between March and June, 1930, due to the coming into force of the Act of 1930; (*c*) the numbers were rather higher in 1931 than in 1930, so far as the changes in legislation make them comparable; (*d*) in the last quarter of 1931 there was a sudden increase, which became even larger in 1932; this corresponds with the coming into force and gradual application of the Anomalies Act and the Economy Act.

These conclusions are even more forcibly brought home if we consider only those unemployed workers (with their dependents) who were in receipt of relief in spite of the fact that they were insured. These received relief either because they had exhausted their insurance benefit or because the benefit needed supplementing.

Fluctuating Figures

Domiciliary Relief of Unemployed Insured Persons and their Dependents—June, 1928, 286,649; September, 252,265; December, 260,451; March, 1929, 265,437; June, 208,502; September, 194,003; December, 197,988; March, 1930, 199,590 (here the Act of 1930 began to have effects); June, 1930, 94,172; September, 94,123; December, 114,977; March, 1931, 127,742; June, 117,060; September, 116,585 (here the Acts of 1931 began to have effects); December, 1931, 178,544; March, 1932, 223,656; June, 230,446; September, 245,571; December, 290,290.

The effects of the Act of 1930 were thus to reduce by at least 100,000 the numbers seeking Poor Relief. The Ministry of Labour has estimated that about 50,000 of these were insured persons, the others being their dependents. The effects of the Acts of 1931 are not so easily determined, for the great increase in unemployment generally must in itself have thrown a certain number of persons upon the Poor Law. But the number of these cannot be very great, since newly unemployed persons would normally be able to maintain themselves and their families upon the statutory benefit to which they were entitled. Another point is that the effects both of the Anomalies

(*Continued on page* 118)

COST OF UNEMPLOYMENT

(*Continued from preceding page*)

Regulations and of the Means Test were only gradually noticeable, since there was a lag between the coming into force of the provisions and the disallowance of benefit. It seems probable, however, that not less than 100,000 persons (including dependents) were by these Acts thrown back upon the Poor Law.

Anomalies Regulations

Under the Anomalies Regulations the following were disallowed benefit from October 1931 to September 1932: 28,571 seasonal workers; 179,888 married women and 3,694 persons whose normal employment was held to be for not more than two days a week. This makes a total of 212,153 persons disqualified for benefit. We may assume that the number of dependents was at least 100,000, and we thus reach the conclusion that between 300,000 and 400,000 persons were thrown back either upon their own resources or upon public assistance. The effect of the Means Test upon the Poor Law figures would not be very great; and it is therefore probable that the larger part of the increase of 100,000 mentioned above as the immediate consequences of the two Acts was due to the Anomalies Act.

The relaxation of the conditions of benefit by the Act of 1930 relieved the Poor Law Authorities of the cost of maintaining some 100,000 persons. Not many of these were brought back by the imposition of the Means Test. For the Means Test is in the main the same as the ordinary Poor Law test of destitution. The consequences of the Means Test are thus to be found chiefly in increased calls for medical assistance, for various forms of assistance to children in respect of food, medical assistance, and education, and in the increase in the number of casuals.

The Poor Law is the second line of defence only for the unemployed insured worker. But of the 17,000,000 workers insured under the National Health Insurance scheme, between 5½ and 6 millions are not insured against unemployment. And there are others who are not even insured under the National Health scheme. For all these the Poor Law is the only recourse in time of unemployment.

Medical Relief Recipients

The number of those who receive only medical relief in their own homes does not appear in the ordinary relief statistics. Nevertheless, it is clear that prolonged unemployment will add considerably to the work of public assistance authorities in this respect. Unemployed persons who can just live on their savings may need to seek relief in the event of illness; insured workers and their dependents cannot pay for medical advice out of their meagre insurance benefits, and the National Health Insurance scheme may not provide what is necessary; and finally uninsured persons who could normally rely on the assistance of friends in time of illness cannot do so if those friends are themselves unemployed. It is therefore not surprising to find that the number of persons in receipt of medical relief only has increased between December 1928 and December 1932 from 12,873 to 18,633, an advance of nearly fifty per cent.

It is obvious that this enormous increase in the numbers of persons in receipt of all forms of relief (except relief in institutions) presents a very grave problem. It is due to causes which have no connection with Local Government or with purely local events. It is the product of national and international economic conditions.

Distribution of Unemployment

Moreover, its importance is minimised by taking figures for the whole of England and Wales. For unemployment, and therefore Poor Relief, is not spread evenly over the whole country. If it were, and the rates were at the same time based upon equal valuations and were in themselves a just form of taxation, it would not matter whether the cost were borne by rates or by taxes. But the truth is that unemployment is spread very unevenly.

The figures for the comparatively prosperous South reduce the figures for the whole country, and do not show the immensity of the problem as it faces South Wales, the Midlands, and the North. While in England and Wales as a whole on the 31st December 1932 only 3.35 per cent of the population was in receipt of relief, in Sheffield the percentage was 11.41, and in Lincoln 14.1. It needs some imagination to picture the effect of the 77,783 people in Liverpool who were in receipt of relief. Oxford on the same date had only 607 persons receiving relief, or 0.75 per cent of the population.

An attempt has been made in most areas not to increase the general rates. But this can be done, if at all, only by starving the other services. And at the same time there has been a parallel increase in the demand for other services. For lowered wages, increased unemployment, and decreased benefit rates have brought many more citizens to the bare subsistence level, and this has necessarily resulted in increased demands upon the health services of Local Authorities, upon the school medical service, and upon that branch of the education service which provides meals for school children. Moreover, the reduction of rateable values brought about by the "derating" operation of 1929 has reduced the resources from which increased revenue can be drawn. To ask for Local Authorities to decrease their rates in these circumstances is utterly futile.

N.A.L.G.O. IN SCOTLAND

SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS

A SPECIAL meeting of the Lanarkshire Branch, called to consider the action Bell v. County Council of Lanark regarding salary cuts in respect of transferred officers, had before them the opinion of Mr. T. M. Cooper, K.C. An endeavour is to be made to get the case further adjourned.

Hamilton Corporation originally passed a resolution to make a cut of 7.7 per cent. on all salaries above £2 per week. Representations were made, and a representative of the Association was heard in support. At the first meeting of the Council there was not the necessary two-thirds majority to overturn the original resolution, but a special meeting was convened to re-consider the question and at that meeting the Council decided to make a cut of 3¾ per cent.

The subject of temporary deductions from salary comes up for review by the Edinburgh Corporation in May, and the branch has instructed the Divisional Secretary to send a letter to the Town Clerk asking that this question be re-considered in the light of the present outlook.

GLASGOW BRANCH

There was a fair attendance at the recent propaganda meeting of the members of the Transport Department, and the indications are that, as a result of this effort, there will be an accession of strength to the branch.

Propaganda circulars are to be sent to all non-members in Glasgow. The question of office hours, which has been before the branch for the past six months, was satisfactorily adjusted after a N.A.L.G.O. deputation had had an audience with the Corporation Committee. Once again has the value of a united front been emphasised in matters of this kind.

COMPENSATION UNDER RATING (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1926

The Executive and the Law and Parliamentary Committees of the Scottish District Committee, which met jointly on April 12, have decided to get the opinion of the Court as to the right to receive payment of compensation under the Rating (Scotland) Act, 1926, in cases where officers have received new appointments at a higher salary than the sum on which compensation was based. The Association is uniting with Roxburgh County Council in submitting this case.

DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The two years course of classes and lectures which qualifies for the Diploma in Public Administration, and which is provided by the School of Social Study in the University of Glasgow, has successfully completed its first session. Although the number of students was small, their quality was excellent, and the experience of the first year augurs well for the future of the course.

The course started in October, 1932. Fourteen students enrolled (twelve men and two women). They were drawn from various Departments of the Corporation of Glasgow, from the Ministry of Labour and from local authorities outside Glasgow. During the session the courses of study included Public Administration and the Law of Public Administration, Economic Theory and Statistics. Examinations in these subjects have been held, and the work performed by the students has reached a good level; in one or two cases it has been of outstanding merit.

The next session starts on Monday, October 9. The fees for the two years course are five guineas a year. The Syllabus for the year 1933–34 is now in the press, and will be distributed within the next few weeks. Should it fail to reach anyone interested, inquiry should be sent to Mr. J. Cunnison, M.A., The University of Glasgow, to whom, also, applications for admission to the course should be sent as soon as possible.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

SURVEY OF THE CHELMSFORD COMMITTEE'S REPORT

By C. KENT WRIGHT, B.A., Town Clerk of Stoke Newington

MR. C. KENT WRIGHT, B.A.
Town Clerk of Stoke Newington

NO one could deny that one of the paramount defects of our Local Government system in the past has been its lack of uniformity. That system has developed on no settled or intelligent design. It has been built up by a "fortuitous concourse of efforts," and in its conglomeration of authorities of all shapes and sizes, it resembles nothing so much as a patchwork quilt. The different types of local authorities—County Councils, Borough Councils, Urban and Rural District Councils—are governed by different statutes which not only differ widely in their language, but are drafted on different principles. Moreover, as was almost inevitable owing to the haphazard development of Local Government, these statutes are full of inconsistencies and ambiguities.

"Tidying Up" the Law

At the end of 1930, Mr. Arthur Greenwood, M.P., then Minister of Health, appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Lord Chelmsford to make recommendations for consolidating and simplifying the law on local government, and an Interim Report of that Committee has just been issued. The committee's job was primarily one of "tidying up," for which, as Sir Hilton Young has said, the present is an eminently suitable time; and the recommendations of the committee will be welcomed by all who are engaged in public administration. Incidentally, it is to be hoped that they may bring home to the general public the difficulty and complexity of many of the problems by which our local government officials are constantly faced.

The recommendations of the committee apply to local authorities in England and Wales exclusive of London, with the exception of the recommendations relative to local financial returns, which extend to London as well. They cover such diverse matters as the procedure for elections, the acquisition of land, expenses, local financial returns, by-laws, and the promotion of, and opposition to, Bills in Parliament. It is obviously impossible in a short article even to summarise all their recommendations. Let us, however, take one typical example of the disadvantages of the existing law which is cited by the Committee.

There is a remarkable lack of uniformity in the various statutes relating to the acquisition of land by local authorities. Under the Local Government Act of 1888, County Councils have a general power to acquire land, either by agreement or compulsorily, for "the purpose of any of their powers and duties." The other types of local authorities have no such power, and, consequently, whenever further functions have been conferred on them which render the acquisition of land necessary, a fresh power to acquire land for those purposes has had to be conferred. This power has in some cases been a power to acquire land by agreement or compulsorily, in others to acquire land by agreement only.

The Committee have wisely decided to take as their precedent for the clauses relating to the acquisition of land the Local Government Act, 1888, which is by far the most modern of the three different codes at present in force.

Disqualification of Councillors

Another important matter dealt with by the Committee is the question of disqualification of councillors arising out of interest in contracts. On this subject the Committee have framed a clause on the general lines recommended by the Royal Commission on Local Government. As the report points out, the complicated provisions of the present law represent attempts on the part of the Legislature to arrive at a formula for distinguishing between cases in which a real conflict of interest and duty is likely to arise if the person interested in the contract acts as a member of a council, and those in which his personal interest in the matter is scarcely more than nominal. The clause framed by the Committee provides:—

(*a*) That the member in question is not to take part in the consideration or discussion of the matter; and

(*b*) Following the principle adopted in Section 149 of the Companies Act, 1929, with regard to directors of limited companies, that the member, if present at a meeting, is to be under an obligation to disclose the fact that he is interested in a contract or other matter which is under consideration at that meeting; and

(*c*) That the local authority may by standing orders provide for the exclusion of a member from a meeting whilst the contract or other matter in which he has a pecuniary interest is under discussion.

The Committee also suggest a reform of the time-table for election of county councillors and borough councillors. Under this the ordinary period for the elections would be, excluding Sundays and public holidays, 21 days in the case of county council elections, and 13 days in the case of borough council elections. The present minimum period of an election is nine days.

Frivolous Candidatures

The Committee give one example of the mischief which may be caused by frivolous candidatures. At a recent election in a borough one candidate contested eight of the nine wards into which the borough is divided. There would have been no contest in any of these wards, but for his candidature. He polled 214 votes in the aggregate in the eight wards. The same person has stood annually for election in one or more wards since 1925, forcing three contests in 1926, and one each in 1928, 1929, and 1930. The total costs to the ratepayers of the contests forced by this one person amount to more than £1,000.

In the opinion of the Committee, it would be impracticable to introduce into local government elections a system of deposits which would be forfeited in the event of the candidate failing to poll a percentage of the total votes, similar to that which is in force in regard to parliamentary elections. The difficulty would be to fix the deposit at a figure which would not prevent *bona fide* candidates from offering themselves for election, and would at the same time effectively deter frivolous candidates. The Committee have accordingly decided to adopt the alternative method of recommending the restriction of the number of electoral areas for which a candidate may stand for election. No restriction is to be placed upon the number of electoral areas to which a candidate may be *nominated*, but he is not to be allowed to go to an election in more than one electoral division of a county or in more than one ward of a borough.

The Committee have also performed valuable services in drafting a single code, which is applicable to all types of local authorities, relating to the general powers of councils of appointing committees. If their recommendations are carried into effect, many discrepancies in the existing law will be removed, and it will be an opportune time for local authorities to review their committee system as a whole. As is well known, many committees have a tendency to acquire functions outside their main concern, which would be better performed if there were a general re-allocation of duties.

There is nothing of a spectacular nature in the recommendations put forward by the Chelmsford Committee. That was precluded by their terms of reference. But the draft Bill which the Committee have prepared will do much to clear up the inconsistencies and overlapping of the existing law. All those who are concerned with local government have good reason to be grateful for this work of rationalisation which the members of Lord Chelmsford's Committee have carried out.

DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Action has been taken on a resolution of the Newton-in-Makerfield Council involving the opening of letters addressed to any official by the Clerk or one of his assistants. Protests were made to the Council by the local branch and by headquarters, on the ground that the proceeding was derogative to the dignity and professional standing of senior officers, and that it would tend to impair the responsibilities placed on the shoulders of the officers and was therefore harmful to the personal relations which exist between themselves and the public.

Counsel's Opinion was obtained on the responsibility of the Postmaster-General in the matter, the Council eventually deciding to revert to the old method.

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NURSING HOME FACILITIES

SUCCESS OF THE OLDHAM N.A.L.G.O. FUND

THE Nursing Home Scheme of the Oldham branch has received considerable attention, and numerous inquiries have been made for detailed information. The Fund, it will be recalled, was inaugurated on November 1, 1931, with the object of insuring all who may be so unfortunate as to require an operation against the heavy charges attached thereto.

The prospect of an operation brings a cloud over any household, and the expense incurred often entails the mortgaging of income for many years to come, whereas, for the modest payment of 2d. per week, the Oldham Scheme provides for any unexpected call against an operation, and leaves no subscriber unprepared. All arrangements are attended to, and, on discharge from the nursing home, the patient (if a member of the N.A.L.G.O. Approved Society and qualified for additional benefits), will be able to rest at N.A.L.G.O. House, Matlock, until recuperation is complete, without having incurred any expense whatever—the return railway fare to Matlock even being provided.

WOODFIELD NURSING HOME, OLDHAM

The surgeons, assistant surgeons and anæsthetists connected with the scheme are members of the honorary medical staff of the Oldham Royal Infirmary. The choice of operating surgeon is left with the patient. Benefit becomes operative on May 1, 1933.

RULES OF THE FUND

The rules of the Fund are :—

1. The scheme shall be named the "Oldham Nalgo Nursing Home Fund."

2. The subscription to be 2d. per week, payable weekly, monthly, or yearly in advance.

3. The waiting period before benefit becomes operative shall be 18 months from the date of joining the Fund.

4. Benefit: Any member requiring a major operation shall have this service provided free of all charge at Woodfield Nursing Home, Werneth Park, Oldham. This service will include the fees of the operating surgeon*, the assistant surgeon and the anæsthetist, together with all nursing home charges up to a period of four weeks for any one operation. If the patient should require a further period of nursing home service, the committee will consider the case and have power to grant an additional stay in the nursing home, free of charge, or decide what portion of the cost of such further stay shall be chargeable to the patient. In the case of a patient whose condition is, in the opinion of the surgeon-in-charge, so serious as to require a private room in the nursing home, such accommodation will be provided, all other cases will be accommodated in a ward having more than one bed.

5. Any case or contingency not covered by these rules shall be considered by the committee and arrangements made to meet the situation for the convenience and benefit of the patient.

6. Members leaving the service, but continuing their membership with the branch as retired members, may retain their membership of the Nursing Home Fund on payment of the yearly subscription in advance.

7. Members resigning from the branch, or more than three months in arrears with their N.A.L.G.O. Subscriptions (sickness excepted) shall cease to be eligible for benefit under the Scheme. Under no circumstances whatever will nursing home subscriptions be refunded.

8. Surplus funds may be invested at the discretion of the committee.

9. The hon. secretary of the branch shall undertake the administrative duties connected with the scheme.

10. The hon. treasurer of the branch shall account for all moneys connected with the Scheme and issue a yearly balance sheet, passed by the hon. auditors; such balance sheet to be included in the annual report of the branch.

11. All payments to be made by cheque, direct to the surgeons and nursing home.

12. The Executive Committee of the branch shall undertake the management of the Scheme, and have power to alter any rule or make and put into effect any new rules that may be considered expedient. All alterations and new rules thus made to be placed on the agenda of the annual general meeting for confirmation.

13. Any member desiring alteration of these rules shall give notice of motion to the hon. secretary of the branch, at least 14 days before October 31.

*Patients desiring an operating surgeon other than those available under the Scheme shall bear the difference in the cost of such fees, viz., £15 15s.

SERVICE CONDITIONS

DARLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL have agreed to grant to members of the clerical and administrative staff a sum of £10 per annum as additional remuneration on passing the association's Intermediate Examination and a similar sum on passing the Final Examination.

* * *

A Bill is being promoted whereby the tramways system of the Dearne District Traction Board is to be abandoned, and the Yorkshire Traction Company will run omnibuses on the route. The position of the officers of the Traction Board is particularly difficult, but every possible step is being taken to safeguard their interests.

* * *

The Sanitary Inspector of the York Corporation having been the subject of slanderous statements made by a member of the public, the Health Committee instituted an inquiry. A local solicitor was engaged by the association to represent the inspector, and after hearing the evidence the committee decided that the charges had not been proved.

* * *

As a result of representations which were made by a deputation from the South Shields Branch, accompanied by the Divisional Secretary, to a sub-committee of the Public Assistance Committee of the corporation in respect of a still further proposal to reduce the ration allowances of the resident officers at the Harton Institution, the committee finally came to the decision to make no alteration.

* * *

Normal increments of salaries have been given to a large number of officers as from April 1 by the West Riding County Council, and the temporary reductions of salaries which have been in operation during the past year have been revised with considerable advantage, particularly to the lower-paid members of the staff. It has been decided that the reductions shall cease to operate entirely on July 1, when the re-valuation of posts has been completed.

SALARY DEDUCTIONS

The following lists of the local authorities who have terminated "cuts" or modified them in favour of the staffs were contained in Circular No. 34, dealing with the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1311, issued to branches on April 21, 1933.

County Councils. — MODIFICATIONS IN FAVOUR: Buckinghamshire, Cornwall, Derbyshire, Glamorganshire, Somerset, West Riding. TERMINATIONS: London, Peterborough, Rutland, Wiltshire, North Riding.

County Boroughs — MODIFICATIONS IN FAVOUR: Brighton, Derby, Exeter, Manchester, Tynemouth. TERMINATIONS: Birkenhead, East Ham, Gloucester, Grimsby, Oldham, Portsmouth, Reading, Wakefield, Wallasey.

Metropolitan Boroughs. — MODIFICATIONS IN FAVOUR: Finsbury, Kensington. TERMINATIONS: Holborn, Paddington, Stoke Newington.

Boroughs. — MODIFICATIONS IN FAVOUR: Bexhill, Hendon, Loughborough, Luton, Reigate, Tunbridge Wells, Twickenham, Hemel Hempstead. TERMINATIONS: Aberystwyth, Aldershot, Andover, Chesterfield, Lancaster, Lewes, Lytham St. Annes, Margate, Port Talbot, Richmond, Stafford, Swindon, Whitehaven, Worthing.

Urban District Councils. — MODIFICATIONS IN FAVOUR: Felling, Mountain Ash, Swadlincote, Selby. TERMINATIONS: Broadstairs, Long Eaton, Mitcham, Newhaven, Northwich, Paignton, Whitstable, Wood Green, Urmston, Whitley and Monkseaton, Kettering, Ilkley, Teignmouth, Teddington, Rhyl, Ince-in-Makerfield, Colwyn Bay, Surbiton, Poulton-le-

(*Continued in column 2*)

(*Continued from column 3*)

Fylde, Turton, Gosforth, Biddulph, Billingham, Mansfield-Woodhouse.

Rural District Councils. — MODIFICATIONS IN FAVOUR: Chesterfield, Hayfield. TERMINATIONS: Eton, Rugby, Tadcaster, Bath, Easthampstead, Basford, Grimsby, Hereford, Leominster and Wigmore, Lichfield, Oxendon, Pershore, Wem, Sedgefield, Settle, Lancaster, West Lancashire, Lunesdale, Ulverston, Stratford-on-Avon:

LEGAL NOTES

INTERIM REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

By the LEGAL SECRETARY

ELSEWHERE in this issue the recently published Interim Report of the Local Government and Public Health Consolidation Committee is dealt with generally. In these notes it is proposed to consider only paragraphs 73 (tenure of office of officers generally) and 88 (compensation for loss of office, etc.) of the Report and the provisions dealing with those subjects in the draft Bill issued with the Report.

In this connection it should be kept in view that, although the Committee was appointed with a view to the *consolidation* of the enactments applying to England and Wales (exclusive of London), they express the belief that the more practicable course will be to invite Parliament to pass a single consolidating and amending Bill instead of following the usual procedure of separate amending and consolidating Bills. The draft Bill which accompanies the Report, therefore, must not be regarded purely as a consolidation Bill.

Tenure of Office Generally

The following is an extract from paragraph 73 of the Report:—

"We have . . . considered it within our Terms of Reference to give effect to the recommendation made by the Royal Commission on Local Government (Final Report, paragraph 471) and to remedy the defect in the law to which attention was called in *Brown v. Dagenham U.D.C.* (1929) 1 K.B.737. The draft Bill accordingly enables a local authority to agree with any officer who holds office during the pleasure of the local authority that it shall be a term of his appointment that the appointment is not to be terminated by either party without reasonable notice. This provision will apply to all officers of a local authority, whether appointed under the Bill or under other enactments, e.g. under section 148 of the Education Act, 1921, but will not affect existing officers."

Clause 120

The provisions of the Bill dealing with this subject are contained in clause 120, which is as follows:—

(1) Notwithstanding any provision in this or any other enactment that a person holding any office shall hold the office during the pleasure of a local authority, there may be included in the terms on which he holds the office a provision that the appointment shall not be terminated by either party without giving to the other party such reasonable notice as may be agreed.

(2) A provision in this or any other enactment that a person holding any office shall hold the office during the pleasure of a local authority shall not affect any right or obligation of the officer to retire on attaining any specified age or on the happening of any specified event in pursuance of any enactment or scheme relating to superannuation allowances which is applicable to the officer.

On the whole, sub-clause (1) would appear to remedy the defect in the law to which attention was called in the Dagenham case. Possibly, some doubt may arise through the use of the word "reasonable" in the last line of the sub-clause, but it would be difficult, in a general enactment of this kind, to indicate any specific period of notice.

Sub-clause (2) would appear desirable, with a view to making it clear that the new Act, having been passed subsequently to, for instance, the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, will not over-ride the provisions of section 6 (3) of that Act under which an officer is to cease to hold office on attaining the age of sixty-five, subject to the proviso for extension with the consent of the officer.

Compensation for Loss of Office, etc.

In paragraph 88 of the Report the Committee state that they have based their proposals relating to compensation for loss of office, etc., on the law as enacted in the Local Government Act, 1929, and they add that, apart from some modifications of detail referred to in the notes on clauses, the draft Bill follows the general lines of that Act.

The provisions of clause 148 of and the Fourth Schedule to the draft Bill certainly do to a very considerable extent follow the compensation provisions of the Act of 1929, but it is submitted that in a number of instances where an alteration in the existing law is proposed the change consists of more than a mere modification of detail.

Clause 148

Clause 148 of the Bill provides that:—

(1) A scheme or order made under this Part of this Act may contain provisions as to the transfer of existing officers affected by the scheme or order, and shall contain provisions for:

(*a*) the protection of the interests of any such existing officers; and

(*b*) the payment, by such local authority as may be determined by or under the scheme or order, of compensation to any existing officer who by virtue of the scheme or order, or of anything done in pursuance of or in consequence of its provisions, suffers any direct pecuniary loss by reason of the determination of his appointment or the diminution of his emoluments, and for whose compensation for that loss no other provision is made by any enactment or statutory order for the time being in force.

(2) An existing officer who, at any time within five years after the date on which the scheme or order comes into operation, relinquishes office by reason of his having been required to perform duties which are not analogous to, or which are an unreasonable addition to, those which he was required to perform immediately before that date shall be deemed for the purposes of the scheme or order to have had his office determined in consequence of the scheme or order, and, unless the contrary is shown, to have suffered direct pecuniary loss in consequence of the scheme or order by reason of such determination.

(3) An existing officer whose appointment is determined or whose emoluments are reduced within five years after the date on which the scheme or order comes into operation, because his services are not required or his duties are diminished (no misconduct being established), shall be deemed, unless the contrary is shown, to have suffered direct pecuniary loss in consequence of the scheme or order.

(4) A scheme or order made under this Part of this Act and providing for the payment of compensation to existing officers shall incorporate the provisions set out in the Fourth Schedule to this Act.

(5) For the purposes of this section—

(*a*) the expression "officer" includes a superintendent registrar, a registrar of births and deaths, a registrar of marriages, and a teacher in a public elementary school maintained but not provided by a local education authority; and

(*b*) the expression "existing officer" means an officer who holds office on the date on which the scheme or order is made, or on such other date or dates as may be specified in the scheme or order.

Protection of "Existing" Officers

This clause is, in principle, similar to the provisions relating to transfer and compensation of officers inserted in previous public Acts, but the wording of the requirement in sub-clause (1) that a scheme or order made under Part VI of the Bill shall contain provisions for the protection of the interests of "existing" officers is new, and may, perhaps, be more advantageous than the provisions of, e.g., section 121 of the Local Government Act, 1929, as to *transferred* officers holding office by the same tenure, and on the same conditions, as previously.

Sub-clauses (2) and (3) also apply to an *existing* officer and not merely to a *transferred* officer, as has been the case with similar provisions in previous Acts.

Clause 148 is limited to a scheme or order made under Part VI of the Bill, but provision is contained in clause 43 (5) and clause 44 under which, by an Order of the County Council, a parish council may be dissolved, in which event the clerk to the parish council would lose his office.

It would, therefore, appear to be necessary for the Bill to be amended to provide that the provisions of clause 148 shall apply in such an event.

Sub-clause (2) contains the usual provision with regard to relinquishment of office, which, however, in practice works most unsatisfactorily. Occasion should be taken for making a further attempt to secure the insertion of some provision for the determination (before the

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LEGAL NOTES

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relinquishment of office takes place) of any question as to whether the duties which an officer is required to perform are analogous to, or are an unreasonable addition to, those previously performed.

In sub-clause (3) the words " (no misconduct being established) " take the place of the words " not on the ground of misconduct," which appear in previous Acts, e.g., in section 49 (2) of the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, and section 123 (3) (b) of the Local Government Act, 1929. This is an improvement.

Emoluments

By Clause 299 " emoluments " is defined as including :

> . . . all salary, wages, fees, poundage and other payments paid or made to an officer as such for his own use, including the money value of any apartments, rations or other allowances in kind appertaining to his office, but does not include payments for overtime or any sum paid to him to cover travelling expenses, cost of office accommodation, assistance of deputies, or clerical, or other assistance.

This definition is based to a considerable extent on the definition of " salary " or " wages " in the Superannuation Act of 1922.

The specific reference to " travelling expenses " is new, and the reference in the 1922 Act to " clerks' assistance " is extended to " assistance of deputies, or clerical, or other assistance." In the case of *R. v. Postmaster-General* (1878) 3 Q.B.D.428, it was held that for the purpose of the assessment of compensation the term " emoluments " may include the profit properly made by a person in receipt of a travelling allowance, but, in practice, in cases arising under recent Acts compensation has rarely been granted for the loss of such a profit.

There is no provision in the Bill similar to paragraph (6) of the Sixth Schedule to the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, which provides that the fees or remuneration received by an officer in connection with the preparation of the Electors' Lists under the Representation of the People Acts shall be regarded as part of the emoluments of the officer for the purpose of compensation, and presumably such a provision is regarded as being no longer necessary, in view of the decision in the case of the *Mayor of Stoke Newington v. Richards* (1930) 1 K.B.222.

Compensation

The Fourth Schedule contains provisions as to the determination and payment of compensation to officers.

Paragraph 1 (1) provides that the claimant shall deliver to the local authority with the claim a statement containing such particulars as may be prescribed. By clause 299 " prescribed " means prescribed by regulations and, except where some other prescribing authority is specified, prescribed by regulations made by the Minister of Health.

Paragraph 3 provides that no amount of compensation exceeding £100 shall be awarded by a lump sum. In the case of compensation payable in pursuance of the Local Government Act, 1929, there is no limit as to the amount of the lump sum, although under that Act the Minister can impose a limit if the compensating authority have to borrow for the purpose of paying the lump sum.

Paragraph 4 (1), instead of referring to the Acts and Rules relating to the Civil Service which were in operation on the date of the passing of the Local Government Act, 1888, sets out the scale used in calculating compensation in accordance with the Treasury practice at that date. This is a decided improvement.

Paragraph 4 (2) provides that in assessing the amount of any pecuniary loss sustained by an officer by reason of the determination of his office, regard *may* be had to the average annual amount of the emoluments received by him in respect of that office during the period of five years next before the material date or during the period of his service in that office, whichever period is the shorter. There is nothing in paragraph 1 of the Eighth Schedule to the Act of 1929, or in Subsection (1) of Section 120 of the Local Government Act, 1888, which that paragraph closely follows, to the effect that regard may be had to the *average* annual emoluments. In both these Acts there is, of course, the provision that the claimant shall deliver to the compensating authority a claim setting out the whole amount received and expended by him during each of his last five years' service, but in the case of *Livingstone v. Mayor of Westminster* (1904) 2 K.B.109, it was held that for the purpose of the assessment of compensation in accordance with the provisions of Section 120 of the Act of 1888, the compensating authority need not take the average for the five-year period, but might take the ultimate salary. Having regard to the wording of the proposed sub-paragraph (2), it seems very unlikely that the compensating authority would ever have regard to the ultimate salary, and this would result in hardship where the compensated officer had, during his last five years' service, been in receipt of a salary rising by annual increments and reached the maximum in the last year. (See also paragraph 6 below.)

Paragraph 4 (2) (b) provides that in assessing the pecuniary loss sustained by an officer by reason of the determination of his office regard *shall* be had to " the emoluments of any office or other public appointment which he has obtained on or after the material date, or which he would have obtained on or after that date if he had accepted an offer made to him." In paragraph 12 of the schedule " material date " is defined as meaning the date on which the determination of office or diminution of emoluments, as the case may be, takes effect. This is an extension of the provisions in previous Acts. For instance, under both the Act of 1888 and the Act of 1929 it is provided that regard shall be had to any additional emoluments acquired by the officer " by virtue of this Act or of anything done in pursuance of or in consequence of this Act, and the emoluments which he might have acquired if he had not refused to accept any office offered by any council acting under this Act." The proposed new provision seeks to give statutory authority to what is understood to be the practice of the Ministry of Health when dealing with compensation appeals. The expression " on or after the material date " appears to be too wide. So far as the period after the award is concerned this is dealt with in paragraph 10 (2). The expression " if he had accepted an offer made to him " is vague, and would seem to imply the possibility of considering a hypothetical offer which might never be made. It should be made clear that the offer is one actually made before the date of the award.

Whole-time Service

Paragraph 4 (3) provides that " For the purpose of assessing any compensation payable in respect of the loss of a whole-time office or of any two or more offices which in the aggregate involve the whole-time service of the officer, any period of part-time service shall be treated as though it were whole-time service for a proportionately reduced period." This provision is entirely new and has been borrowed from the second proviso to Section 7 of the Superannuation Act of 1922. Superannuation and compensation are, however, two entirely different things. Moreover, under that Act superannuation allowances have to be paid out of a " fund " to which both the officer and the local authority contribute and which has to be maintained in a position to meet the calls made on it. There is no such " fund " out of which compensation for loss of office, etc., is payable.

Part-time Office

By paragraph 5 it is provided that compensation in respect of the determination of a part-time office (the holder of which does not devote his whole time to the service of local authorities) " shall be reduced by one-quarter." Under previous Acts the compensating authority is not bound to make any reduction on account of part-time service. The new provision would take away the discretion of the compensating authority. There may be circumstances where it would involve hardship to make a reduction on account of part-time service. In any case, the paragraph provides that the compensation *shall* be reduced by one-quarter and gives power to the compensating authority to make even a greater reduction. In accordance with the practice of the Treasury, a deduction up to one-fourth was made in the case of Civil Servants who had not devoted their whole time to the public service, and it is

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N.A.L.G.O. SCHOLARSHIPS

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL EXAMINATIONS

THE National Association of Local Government Officers announce a comprehensive series of exhibitions and scholarships to be awarded annually on the results of the examinations of various professional and technical bodies concerned with local government. In the first of the four groups, six exhibitions, each to the value of £20, are to be awarded with the object of assisting entrants who are members of the Association, to prepare and sit for their final examinations, the award being made on the results of the Intermediate Examinations. Coming within this group are the following Associations: The National Association of Local Government Officers; the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants (Inc.); the Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers; the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors; the Law Society; and the Chartered Institute of Secretaries. In the case of N.A.L.G.O. the award will be referred to as the "E.W.B. Abbott" Exhibition.

The Second Group

In the second group, fourteen Scholarships are to be awarded annually on the results of the final examinations of the societies mentioned in Group 1 above, and of the following: Board of Trade (Inspectors of Weights and Measures); Institution of Municipal and County Engineers (Testamur); the Library Association; Poor Law Examinations Board Examinations for (*a*) Clerical Officers, (*b*) Relieving Officers, and (*c*) Institution Officers; the Poor Law Diploma for Scotland; and the Sanitary Association of Scotland. In the case of the Institution of Municipal and County Engineers, the award will be referred to as the "F. Marsden" Scholarship. The object of these scholarships, it is explained, is to enable the successful candidates to acquire the degree or diploma in Public Administration at any of the Universities. The value of the award is £30 if the course be taken at the Universities of London, Manchester, or Liverpool, and £20 if the course be taken at the Universities of Glasgow, Leeds, or Sheffield. Half of the amount of the Scholarship will be paid on production of satisfactory evidence that the holder has entered on the first year of his studies, and the other half on his commencing his second year's course.

Fourteen prizes of the value of £10 each are to be awarded annually on the results of the final examinations set out in Group II above to persons who have not been awarded the N.A.L.G.O. Scholarship for the year, to enable them to attend the N.A.L.G.O. Summer School. The prizes will be paid during the course of the Summer School attended by the prize-winners.

Sister Tutor Scholarship

Finally, a Sister Tutor Scholarship of the value of £150 is to be awarded once in three years on the results of a special examination held by the College of Nursing. The object of this scholarship is to enable a trained nurse to take the one year Sister Tutor Course at King's College of Household and Social Science, University of London.

The following are the rules governing the award of scholarships:—

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READERS ARE INVITED TO USE THE CORRESPONDENCE COLUMNS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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believed that it has not been the practice of the Treasury to make a higher deduction. From evidence given by one of the principal officers of the Treasury in an unreported case (*Crocker v. The Ouse Drainage Board*), tried before Lord Hewart, C.J., in February, 1923, it was at any rate at that time the practice of the Treasury to make a deduction *up to* one-fourth in compensation cases. In *R. v. Stepney Borough Council* (1902) 1 K.B.317, it was held that the compensating authority were not bound to follow the exact course adopted by the Treasury, but must exercise their discretion by taking the whole matter and circumstances into consideration, i.e., they were not bound to make any deduction for part-time service.

Paragraph 6, which deals with the assessment of compensation in the case of an officer who suffers a diminution of the emoluments of an office, provides that "the compensation shall not exceed a sum bearing the same proportion to the amount of compensation which could have been awarded if his office had been determined, as the amount by which the emoluments of the office as diminished bears to the amount of those emoluments before diminution." This paragraph would certainly appear to require amendment, because if, in assessing the compensation, regard is had to the average emoluments received by the officer during his last five years' service, he may be entitled to no compensation, although, in fact, he has suffered a reduction of salary in consequence of the scheme or order. For instance, an officer may have been in receipt of a salary of £300, rising by annual increments of £25 to £400. Shortly after reaching his maximum salary he suffers a reduction of £50 in salary in consequence of the scheme or order. As his average salary for the last five years would be only £350, he would not receive any compensation.

Calculation of War Service

Paragraph 7 is an improvement on existing provisions, because it provides for reckoning for compensation the period of temporary absence during which an officer was serving in the late war with H.M. Forces, either compulsorily or with the permission of the authority in whose employment he was immediately *before* such absence. In previous Acts the reference is to the "authority in whose employment he was immediately before and after" the temporary absence.

Paragraph 9, which provides that the sum payable as compensation shall commence to be payable at the date fixed by the local authority on granting the compensation, or, in the case of appeal, by the Minister, does not contain the usual provision appearing in previous Acts to the effect that the sum payable as compensation shall be a specialty debt due to the claimant from the compensating authority and may be enforced accordingly in like manner as if the authority had entered into a bond to pay the same. An addition should, therefore, be made to the paragraph to provide that the compensation shall be a specialty debt.

Suspension of Compensation

Paragraph 10 (1) provides for the suspension of the compensation allowance where a person receiving compensation under the scheme or order obtains "any other office or public appointment." This reference to "any office or other public appointment" is open to objection, on the ground of vagueness. Paragraph 14 of the Eighth Schedule to the Act of 1929 refers to "any office under the Crown or any local or other public authority." Although these latter words had to be accepted in 1929, it was felt at the time that they were open to objection and it would be desirable that they should not be further extended in the future.

Paragraph 10 (2) provides that "Where an officer to whom compensation has been awarded under any scheme or order subsequently becomes entitled to a superannuation allowance in respect of any office or other public appointment which he has accepted after the material date, and in calculating the amount of such allowance account is taken of any period of service in respect of which compensation is payable, then, if the compensation does not exceed such part of the superannuation allowance as is attributable solely to that service, the compensation shall cease to be payable, and if it exceeds such part of the superannuation allowance as aforesaid, it shall be reduced by an amount equal to that part of the allowance." This provision is entirely new. In the Notes on Clauses (see page 107 of the Interim Report) it is said, "Under paragraph 11 of the Eighth Schedule to the Act of 1929 such an officer would have had his superannuation allowance reduced. Such a provision is out of place in a code dealing, not with superannuation, but with compensation." But is it correct to say that under that paragraph an officer's superannuation allowance is reduced? The paragraph simply provides that certain service shall not be reckoned for the purpose of the calculation of a superannuation allowance. That is a very different thing. Moreover, the proposed new provision may well have the effect of depriving a compensated officer of that part of his compensation allowance which is calculated in respect of the "added years." For instance, if, as is likely to happen, a compensation allowance exceeds that part of the superannuation allowance as is attributable to the service which was taken into account for the assessment of the compensation by £X, which represents that amount of the compensation allowance calculated on the added years, the compensated officer would lose that amount on being superannuated.

NOTES FOR READERS

By JONAS PRAPS

IT is, I think, an example of the undying sporting spirit in an Englishman that the older books about sports are read and sold. Examine the *Reference Catalogue of Current Literature*, and note, for example, the number of editions of *Handley Cross, Mr. Sponge's Sporting Tour*, and other novels of Robert Smith Surtees, who flourished in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. If you have never *read* any of his books you will have heard of John Jorrocks, and no novels better describe sporting life and the social atmosphere of fox-hunting and hunters of the early Victorian era. Now Messrs. Harrap & Co. have published a critical study of Surtees by Frederick Watson (12s. 6d.). It is critical, but it is also appreciative. Moreover, such a book has been long overdue.

"Bunga-Bunga" Farce

For pure farce Stephen King-Hall's *Bunga-Bunga* (Ivor Nicholson, 7s. 6d.) need fear no rival in recent fiction. Bunga-Bunga is a British possession which needs cleaning up morally, and the book opens with the appointment of Sir Montague Thumpeter as Governor charged with the cleaning. He is a bachelor ruled by a middle-aged sister with pronounced views on stamping out drink and vice. Sir M. will "take a little medicinally," but it is only a little when his sister is in view. Add a young and by no means teetotal A.D.C., allow the two to have three weeks on the island (before the sister's arrival) and in the company of an American widow and her friend, and I think you can imagine the rest. The book is as good as anything published as "humorous" for some time.

George Hearn has spent twenty years observing the life of birds and animals in their natural surroundings, and in *Strange Happenings in Wild Life* (Hutchinson, 15s.) he gives a delightful record of his experiences. The photographs are equally delightful and can only have been secured after very long and patient effort. Mr. Hearn appears to be able to make feathered friends as easily as many a one can create personal human friendships. The book is popular and in no sense technical.

Fraulein Lili Korber travelled about Russia for ten months and later was employed drilling levers for tractors at the Putilov Works, Leningrad. As a German speaking Russian fluently, she would probably be less subject to a charge of espionage than an Englishwoman if recent political proceedings are to be relied upon. In *Life in a Soviet Factory* (Lane, 5s.) she gives an account of her experiences. If it is possible by means of books to get a true vision of life in Russia, there ought now to be sufficient to satisfy the most determined. The book does not hide matters concerning individual relationships.

One does not need to read very extensively in *The Street of the Sandalmakers*, translated from the Danish of Nis Petersen (Lovat Dickson, 7s. 6d.), without realising how deeply the author has studied his characters and the life of the period in this story of Rome in the time of Marcus Aurelius. It is the story of Jon, son of Marcellus by the slave girl Ruth. The title has reference to the meeting-place of the Christians, and although the time is that of the Barbarian raid on the Empire, the story deals principally with individuals, the social life of the people, and the ravages of the plague. Most of the characters are brilliantly drawn. As a study of the period in general, and of the influence of the Christian community, the book will bear comparison with other well-known works having the same period and topical interest. It is certainly the best of recent fiction and will repay close reading.

BOOK REVIEWS

DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS. H. J. Laski. (George Allen and Unwin, Museum Street, W.C.) Price 7s. 6d. net.

IT is surprising to find Professor Laski apologising for expressing his views on a subject which is not only "popular" at the moment, but which will be widely discussed for some time to come; in fact, the theme of this book is running through the world events which are being recorded in our daily newspapers, and are causing so much anxiety to millions of people who fear catastrophe. Laski the apologist is new, but as stimulating as ever.

The first chapter of his latest book *Democracy in Crisis* deals with what he terms the "illusion of security" and is an exposition of the political and economic institutions which have gradually grown up in the process of the development of a capitalist society. He balances, with fine distinction, the protection which surrounds the governing classes against that which has been built up, in the face of fierce opposition, by the working classes and, in that balance, the privileges which have been showered upon the few are found to have been conferred at the expense of the many. It is not, he believes, the fault of our present rulers, since we have all been born, and brought up, in an atmosphere which creates the impression that the chain of government, which had been forged by our ancestors, is perfect in every link.

That myth was exploded during the recent financial crisis. During the early post-war period, and until the Wall Street crash, the capitalists in this country were able to give way to the public demand for an expansion of the social services and, in America, everybody, from the biggest financier down to the lift-boy, was able to make a fortune one day and lose it the next through feverish gambling. But immediately the financial pendulum began to swing the other way, a halt was called to expenditure on public works, a national government was elected on a popular slogan, and a process of cutting wages and salaries, of causing unemployment, and of very serious reduction in the amounts to be spent on those very services which had been so strongly advocated only a few years previously, was put into operation, thereby proving that, in the present régime, private interests must come first.

Following logically on this, is a chapter on the decay of representative institutions. It is the opinion of Professor Laski that what was good, and, indeed, admirable government for

(*Continued on page 139*)

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SCHOLARSHIPS

(*Continued from page 123*)

1. Where only one annual examination is held, the awards will be made as soon as possible after the publication of the results of that examination.

   Where two examinations are held each year, both being in the first six months of the year, the awards will be made on the basis of the results of those examinations as soon as they are available.

   Where two or more examinations are held, one or more being in the second half of the year, the awards will be made in the first half of the following year on the basis of the results published during the preceding educational year.
2. All application forms for scholarships should be forwarded to the General Secretary at the time when the applicants enter for their various examinations.
3. Applicants must have been members of the N.A.L.G.O. for one full year before the date of the examination which qualifies them for entry.
4. The scholarships will not be awarded unless in the opinion of the Examining Institution the successful candidates have reached a sufficiently high standard in the examination.

CANDIDATES ARE ASKED TO NOTE THAT ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE WITH THE SOCIETIES CONCERNED FOR THE AWARD OF EXHIBITIONS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND PRIZES IN 1933 WITHOUT THE FORMALITY OF THE APPLICATION FORM. IN 1934 THE SCHEME WILL BE IN FULL OPERATION, AND THOSE WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE MUST APPLY ON THE APPLICATION FORM.

RATING AND VALUATION OFFICERS

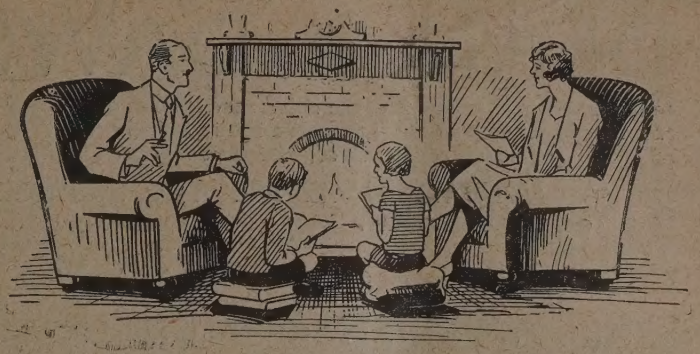
At the annual meeting of the Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers (Metropolitan & Southern Counties Students Society) held at 24 Abingdon Street on April 5, Mr. P. Bevan, President of the Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers, was re-elected President of the Society. Messrs. G. P. Warner Terry, F. J. Phillips, F. W. Judge, A. W. Bridger, A. J. Croxford, J. T. Baker, F. N. Mumford were invited to act as vice-presidents, the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer being Mr. A. E. Pitfield and Mr. F. Chamberlain respectively. A lecture on "Recovery of Rates" was given by Mr. G. P. Warner Terry.

TRADE NOTES

Our Readers will find much to interest them in the comprehensive Spring Catalogue published by Messrs. Mortons, who are regular advertisers in LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE. A noteworthy feature of this publication is that its contents are specially selected to appeal to Municipal Officers. Moreover, Messrs. Mortons invite readers to order "on approval," whilst all goods (from fashions to furniture) are procurable on very low extended terms. Readers of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE will, on application to Messrs. Mortons, Desk M.O., Highbury Place, London, N.5, receive, post free, a copy of this handy Spring Catalogue.

* * *

Some years ago, Tom Hall, Editor of the *Scottish Ramblers' Year Book*, commenced to organise both Youth Hostel and Hotel Walking Tours. To-day he has behind him a first-class organisation for the planning of walking tours, both at home and abroad. Each year Mr. Hall travels many thousands of miles, and, as a result, he has always something new and attractive for the walking tour enthusiast. Most of the work is done voluntarily, and many of the helpers are officials from the Rambling Clubs and Federations. Thus it is that the cost of the holiday is very much reduced. It is understood that tours are being arranged in Scotland, Denmark, Norway, and various parts of Germany, but full particulars are given in his programme, which can be obtained from his London Organiser—Herbert Till, 121 Wanstead Park Road, Ilford, Essex.



THE FAMILY INCOME

WHAT a relief it must be to the married man who knows that his family is adequately provided for in the event of his death. Independent of the charity of others. Sheltered from the hardships which he alone can prevent. On the other hand, what a tragedy for the family which is robbed of every comfort and left stranded.

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27	1 11 8	1 14 2
28	1 13 4	1 15 10
29	1 14 2	1 16 8
30	1 15 0	1 18 4
31	1 16 8	2 0 0
32	1 18 4	2 1 8
33	2 0 0	2 3 4
34	2 1 8	2 5 10
35	2 4 2	2 8 4
36	2 5 0	2 10 0
37	2 6 8	2 12 6
38	2 8 4	2 15 0
39	2 10 10	2 17 6
40	2 12 6	3 0 10
41	2 15 0	3 5 0
42	2 17 6	3 9 2
43	3 1 8	3 14 2
44	3 5 0	3 18 4
45	3 8 4	4 3 4
46	3 11 8	4 10 0
47	3 15 0	4 16 8
48	3 19 2	5 4 2
49	4 3 4	5 11 8
50	4 8 4	6 0 10
51	4 12 6	6 10 10
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HOLIDAYS — HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR 1933

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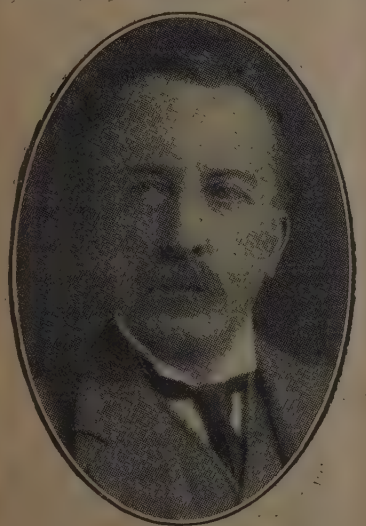
N.A.L.G.O. SUMMER SCHOOLS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OXFORD AND ST. ANDREWS DISCUSSIONS: CONDITIONS OF EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT: STUDIES IN ECONOMIC POLICY

THERE has probably never been a time when so much attention has been devoted to the critical and constructive study of the technique of local administration as is the case to-day. Nor, perhaps, has there been a time when that has been so necessary. For this, there is abundant justification. Problems affecting local government are such that, generally speaking, they must really be the subject of continuous study and discussion. Again, considering the rapid expansion of the administration, creating as it does new and complex problems, it is essential that consideration should be directed not only to the adaptations necessary to meet the changes of the moment, but also from the angle of thinking out on scientific lines what the possible organisation of local government will be in the future. Administrators, both salaried and honorary, have never permitted the consideration of contemporary tendencies to obscure what may be described as the long-range view.

In this respect the National Association of Local Government Officers have shown an abundance of wisdom and imagination in the plans for their summer schools, both in England and Scotland. For a long time it has been made clear that the association consider it their duty to make a definite contribution towards the provision of adequate facilities to enable local government officers to acquire the professional and technical equipment necessary for the efficient discharge of their duties. The summer schools form a part, though a very important one, of that contribution. The Association have every reason to congratulate themselves on the success which has attended these schools since they were instituted three years ago. The schools have, indeed, become an established and increasingly important feature of the educational activities, and there is every reason to believe that the school to be held at University College, Oxford, from July 15 to 22, and that at St. Andrews from June 24 to July 1 will achieve an even more striking success than their predecessors attained.

The association are fortunate in having persuaded Sir W. H. Hadow, C.B.E., M.A., D.Mus., LL.D., D.Litt., to open the Oxford School. Sir Henry requires no introduction to local government officers. To them he is probably more familiar as the chairman of the committee which produced the famous Hadow Report on Adult Education. In 1909 he was appointed Principal of the Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and in 1919 Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield University, an office which he held until 1930. During the war, Sir Henry was Director of Education for the Y.M.C.A. in France, going to the War Office as Assistant Director of Staff Duties (Education) towards the end of the campaign. He resumed his scholastic duties after the war, being subsequently at the University of Glasgow, and at Newnham, Cambridge. Sir Henry is an authority on music, having rendered valuable assistance to the promotion of musical education, both as president of the Federation of Musical Competition Festivals, and as a member of the Welsh Musical Council. He is at present acting as chairman of the Departmental Committee on Local Government Officers.



SIR W. H. HADOW, C.B.E., M.A., who will open the Oxford Summer School

OXFORD: UNIVERSITY COLLEGE—THE DINING HALL

The Programme of Lectures

The school will be officially opened at dinner on July 15, when the president of the association will preside, and the distinguished guests will include ladies and gentlemen representing the University, the Oxfordshire County Council, the Oxford City Council, and the local branches of N.A.L.G.O. Both for the Oxford and the St. Andrews schools the syllabuses have been arranged on broad and comprehensive lines. The lectures at Oxford will deal with two main subjects—one, the examination of certain conditions of efficient local government, and the other, an analysis of the present financial situation. In connection with the first subject, Mr. W. Ivor Jennings, M.A., LL.B., Reader in English Law in the University of London, will discuss the observations he has made in the course of his wide experience in Great Britain, dealing in his four lectures with the respective questions of the need for monopoly, the suitability of the area, the efficiency of the officers, and the adequacy of council control. These observations will be continued by Mr. John P. R. Maud, M.A. (Oxon.), Fellow and Dean of University College, Oxford, from the point of view of the development they have taken in Germany, U.S.A., the Irish Free State, and South Africa.

In his lectures, the general title of which is "Saving and Spending: A study of economic policy," Professor J. H. Jones, M.A., of the chair of Economics and Head of the Commerce Department in the University of Leeds, will enable students to construct with him a policy for increasing or curtailing local expenditure in view of the events which have been analysed. Apart from the lectures, an address will be given to the School by Professor Harvey Walker, M.A., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science, Ohio State University. Professor Walker is on leave of absence from his university for the purpose of studying the methods of recruitment and training of local government officials outside America. He has agreed to discuss with the students the opinions he has formed, and to show how the practice in this country differs from that in America. From conversations which we have already had with Professor Walker, we can say that a number of the customs which are regarded as commonplace strike him as peculiar, and his remarks are sure to be of intense interest.

Altogether, the topics to be discussed at the Oxford School will unquestionably make a wide appeal to officers in all departments of a local authority. The general policies to be discussed in the earlier lectures are of universal application, while the financial discussions in the later lectures will help to clear up much of the foggy thinking which has been in evidence during the last few years. The policy of saving on public expenditure, which was adopted by the Government a few years ago, was not received without considerable misgiving on the part of many economists. Their doubts have gradually been confirmed by the progress of international affairs, and Mr. J. M. Keynes ably crystallises these ideas in a series of articles in *The Times*. His articles have been published in a pamphlet, "The Means to Prosperity," which all students are recommended to read before attending Professor Jones's lectures.

The detailed syllabus is now available, and can be obtained from branch secretaries, education correspondents or headquarters. As accommodation in University College is limited, intending students are requested to forward their enrolment forms as early as possible.

As already announced, Sir Arthur Robinson, G.C.B., C.B.E., Principal Secretary to the Ministry of Health, who opened the First Nalgo Summer School held at Keble College in 1930, has very kindly instituted an Essay Competition in connection with the Schools. This competition is open to members of Nalgo, whether they attend the School or not. The subjects from which the candidates can choose are:

1. To what extent, and in what way, are rates a burden?

(*Continued on page 130, col. 3*)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

HEADQUARTERS:
24 ABINGDON STREET,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "Insurance," "Finance," "Organisation," "Education," or "Special Activities."
Telephone: Victoria 8592 (6 lines).
Telegrams: Natassoc, Parl, London.

FOLKESTONE CONFERENCE, 1933

DAILY PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

10 a.m.—Annual Golf Competition, Folkestone Golf Course, Radnor Park.
10 a.m.—Annual Tennis Tournament, Sports Ground, Cheriton Road.
10 a.m.—Annual Bowls Tournament, Folkestone Bowls Club, Cheriton Road.
4.30 p.m.—Provident Society, Annual General Meeting, Town Hall.
6.30 p.m.—Building Society, Annual General Meeting, Town Hall.
8.30 p.m.—Reception by His Worship the Mayor, Leas Cliff Hall.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

9.30 a.m.—Opening of Conference and Official Welcome, Marine Gardens Pavilion.
12.35 p.m.—Conference Photograph, Royal Pavilion Hotel grounds.
12.50 p.m.—Luncheon to National Executive Council, Royal Pavilion Hotel.
2.30 p.m.—Conference Session, Marine Gardens Pavilion.
4.30 p.m.—Logomia, Annual General Meeting, Marine Gardens Pavilion.
6.30 p.m.—Tour No. 1, East Kent Country, assemble Marine Gardens Pavilion.
8.15 p.m.—Variety Concert, Leas Cliff Hall.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

10 a.m.—Divine Service, assemble Town Hall.
10.30 a.m.—Divine Service, Parish Church.
2 p.m.—Tour No. 2, Canterbury (direct) assemble Marine Gardens Pavilion.
2.15 p.m.—Tour No. 2a, Canterbury (circular), assemble Marine Gardens Pavilion.
2.15 p.m.—Tour No. 3, Deal, assemble Marine Gardens Pavilion.
8.15 p.m.—Orchestral Concert, Leas Cliff Hall.

MONDAY, JUNE 5

9.30 a.m.—Conference Session, Marine Gardens Pavilion.
12.45 p.m.—Luncheon to His Worship the Mayor and Members of Conference Council. Royal Pavilion Hotel.
2.30 p.m.—Conference Session, Marine Gardens Pavilion, followed by Meeting of National Executive Council, Royal Pavilion Hotel. National Executive Council meeting at Royal Pavilion Hotel at conclusion of Conference.
8.30 p.m.—Conference Dance, Leas Cliff Hall.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

9.30 a.m.—Tour No. 4, "Weald of Kent," assemble Marine Gardens Pavilion.
10.15 a.m.—Tour No. 5, Boulogne-sur-Mer, assemble Harbour Pier.

NALGO HOLIDAY GUIDE

This guide, which is full of recommended holiday addresses and holiday suggestions, can be obtained through the Branch Secretaries, price 3d. per copy. The 1933 issue has been brought up-to-date and will prove invaluable to the holiday maker.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following Circulars have been remitted to branch honorary secretaries from Headquarters:—

MARCH 31

Circular No. 27/*Con*/1933. (*To Conference Delegates.*)

Stating that conference handbook, revised hotel list and particulars of tours and social functions with remittance schedule will be despatched during the course of the next few days.

APRIL 21

Circular No. 28/*BO*/1933.

Giving particulars relating to the 1933 Benevolent and Orphan Fund Purse Session to take place at Folkestone on June 3.

Circular No. 29/*BO*/1933.

(*a*) Giving details of the Amateur Photographic Competition in aid of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund and urging a large number of entries from each branch.
(*b*) Enclosing a copy of the entry form.
(*c*) Setting out a requisition for further copies of the entry form that may be required.

APRIL 10

Circular No. 30/*Con*/1933. (*To Conference Delegates.*)

(*a*) Enclosing official conference handbook, particulars of tours and social functions with remittance schedule and revised hotel list.

APRIL 21

Circular No. 31/*Gen*/1933.

Enclosing form (in duplicate) whereon to record particulars of changes in branch membership between February 1 and April 30 and requesting attention to the form as soon as possible after the end of the month.

Circular No. 32/*Gen*/1933.

(*a*) Enclosing a copy of "What You Get for Your Rates," by T. S. Simey, and "Cost of Unemployment," by W. Ivor Jennings, and stating that further copies are available on request.
(*b*) Stating that copies of the "Parish Pump" may be obtained by branches at trade price and requesting orders through the General Secretary.
(*c*) Requesting arrangements with local libraries whereby copies of publicity articles may be placed in the reading rooms.

Circular No. 33/*Gen*/1933.

(*a*) Enclosing copy of new leaflet issued in connection with Provincial Whitley Councils, and stating that further copies are available for circulation.
(*b*) Enclosing copies of booklet and poster relating to N.A.L.G.O. Summer Schools and stating that further copies are available.
(*c*) Regarding enrolments for N.A.L.G.O. Summer Schools.

Circular No. 34/*Gen*/1933.

Containing an extract from Ministry of Health Circular 1311, issued to local authorities on March 22, 1933, and the views of the Emergency Sub-Committee thereon.

Circular No. 35/*Holidays*/1933.

Regarding holidays at Croyde Bay and Cayton Bay and on the "Canary Islands" and "Baltic" cruises.

CONFERENCE TRAVELLING

EXTENSION OF AVAILABILITY OF TICKETS

An application has been made to, and approved by, the Railway Clearing House for an extension of the period during which the special travelling facilities in connection with the Annual Conference at Folkestone will be available.

Will delegates please note that this concession will commence on May 31 and cease on June 17, 1933?

Vouchers have been issued to the representatives appointed to attend the Conference. The voucher must be produced and surrendered at the local booking office when the representatives book their tickets.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 1.—Voting Papers in hands of Secretary of District Committee by this date.

MAY 2.—Counting of votes for N.E.C. commenced in each district.

MAY 18.—N.A.L.G.O. Examinations.

MAY 19.—N.A.L.G.O. Examinations.

MAY 20.—N.A.L.G.O. Examinations.

MAY 20.—Conference Agenda (containing motions and amendments thereto) and list of representatives to be forwarded to representatives.

MAY 20.—Branches desiring to divide voting strength at Conference to notify Headquarters of allocation.

MAY 31.—Branches to remit all moneys due to the Association to Headquarters.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL OFFICERS

Analysis of Local Authorities in England and Wales according to Numbers of Officers Employed

The following particulars, collated mainly from information supplied by local authorities, show the small number of officers who are engaged to discharge the services administered by local authorities, including trading services. They readily show the difficulties encountered by over 1,500 of the 1,838 authorities in regard to the adoption of the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, which can only be applied if the local authority has 50 officers and/or workmen it is willing to bring in a scheme, unless it obtains admission to another scheme or takes part in a combination scheme.

Class of Authority	*Number of Local Authorities*	*Number of Officers*						
		Up to 50	51 *to* 100	101 *to* 250	251 *to* 500	501 *to* 1,000	1,001 *to* 2,000	*Over* 2,000
County Councils	62	1	5	13	15	16	6	6
County Borough Councils	83	—	1	16	29	22	9	6
Metropolitan Borough Councils and City of London Corporation	29	—	4	18	6	—	1	—
Borough Councils	263	165	55	36	7	—	—	—
Urban District Councils	766	725	30	9	2	—	—	—
Rural District Councils	635	630	5	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1,838	1,521	100	92	59	38	16	12

Local Government Service

Editorial and Advertisement Offices, 3 and 4 Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Telephone: Holborn 2288-2289.

Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration.

Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.

Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

MAY 1933

NOTES OF THE MONTH

THE CONFERENCE

THE Folkestone Conference is rapidly drawing near. The delegates have been supplied with the first—and by far the major—portion of the printed matter. Included in the last dispatch was the form which contains a list of the functions and tours arranged by the local Conference Council, and as Mr. Summerfield, the secretary, has already pointed out, delegates must possess the appropriate tickets for the various events in which they desire to participate, and each one is earnestly requested to fill up the official form as quickly as possible and return it to Mr. Summerfield to avoid disappointment.

All who have attended previous conferences must have realised the enormous amount of preparation which a successful conference entails. Most of that preliminary work concerning the comfort and entertainment of the delegates falls upon the local Conference Council and their officers, and the least each participant can do is to lighten the burden and relieve the anxiety which goes with it, by making a ready response to the appeal to send their applications and remittances for tickets not later than May 18.

A glance at the handsome conference programme and local guide will show how attractive are the various tours, but one item is of more than passing interest and it establishes an historic event. On Tuesday, June 6, a day excursion to Boulogne-sur-Mer has been arranged, and the party will be given an official reception by His Worship the Mayor of Boulogne-sur-Mer at the Hôtel de Ville. The trip will be made by one of the Southern Railway's palatial cross-Channel boats, and departure will be made from the harbour pier, which many of our members will remember in less happy days than those which will mark Whitsuntide, 1933.

Folkestone played a great part in the Great War. Apart from the fact that 200,000 Belgian and French refugees were landed at Folkestone Harbour, the same place eventually became the principal port for the transporting of troops to the fighting zones in Europe, and no fewer than eleven million men were taken across the Channel from Folkestone Harbour to Boulogne and Calais. The Slope Road, which leads from the Leas to the Harbour, became historic by reason of the fact that several millions of troops passed down this hill on their way to the battlefields. The road is now known as "the Road of Remembrance," and the placing of the wreath at the foot of the War Memorial which will take place on the way to the special church service on Whitsunday morning will have more than ordinary significance.

ANOTHER CIRCULAR

In our last issue we rang down the curtain on the economy drama, and made reference to the epilogue (Circular 1311). It was not realised then how rapidly that circular would be followed by the issue of another, urging local authorities to go full speed ahead on the clearance of slums and unsuitable dwelling houses. The new circular is No. 1331, and in it His Majesty's Government urges local authorities to clear up within five years all the slum property and to re-house the people in decent dwellings. To do this, local authorities will have to call upon more than one department; in fact, all the non-trading departments will be brought into play.

In the memorandum which the National Association of Local Government Officers put before the Ray Committee, the following paragraph appeared, and it can now be read with added interest in the light of the new "call to action" policy of the Ministry of Health:

"A short time ago Government departments were urging local authorities to execute schemes of great magnitude and national importance; the officers responded wholeheartedly, and without monetary reward, to that urge. Traditionally, the manner in which local government officers carry out the work assigned to them is unaffected by changes in government, but, even so, they would be sensible of a great injustice if the authority which only yesterday metaphorically almost broke their backs should to-morrow adopt a policy which must tend to break their morale."

Circular 1331 indicates that we are now getting back to the pre-economy days, and that the wheel of local government activity has completed the full circle.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW CONSOLIDATION

When Mr. Arthur Greenwood, M.P., was Minister of Health, he appointed a Committee towards the end of 1930, under the chairmanship of Lord Chelmsford, to make recommendations for consolidating and simplifying the law of Local Government. This work has been done so quietly that the Committee's existence had almost been forgotten until the other day an interim report was issued by them together with a draft Bill, embodying the recommendations decided upon.

The law relating to Local Government has been built up piece-meal, and the draft Bill which the Committee have prepared will do much to clear up the overlapping of the existing statutes. The general structure of the report is dealt with on another page of this issue, and the Legal Secretary deals at length with one or two matters which will require the most careful consideration of our members and the Law and Parliamentary Committee of the Council of this Association.

We have to be careful when Consolidation Bills are being considered that all the rights and interests of local government officers are preserved, and members have no need to fear that N.A.L.G.O. will neglect its responsibility in this respect.

THE POLITICAL QUARTERLY

The current issue of that very informative journal, *The Political Quarterly* (Macmillan & Co., Ltd., St. Martin's Street, London, W.C.2), is more interesting than any of its predecessors, containing as it does brilliant articles by writers of international repute. Professor W. Y. Elliott's "War Debts and Peace Credits: An American View" is a remarkably lucid and trenchant exposition of a creditor's views on the debtor's ability to pay. Sydney Webb's (Lord Passfield) "Soviet Russia as a Federal State" has a particular interest at this moment.

Other long articles are "Essays in Law Reform" (Mr. D. N. Pritt, K.C.), the first of a series of lawyers' views on where our laws can with advantage be "modernised," "The Socialisation of Banking" (Mr. E. F. Wise), "Economics in the Modern World" (Mr. G. D. H. Cole), and the "Balkan Situation" (Balcanicus). A few short articles dealing with recent developments in laws, the much-debated resolution of the Oxford Union, and other topical subjects, surveys, and book reviews, complete this number of a miniature encyclopaedia, and one looks forward with keen anticipation to the next production. D. J. P.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 1933

CONSIDERED AMENDMENTS TO NOTICES OF MOTION CONTAINED IN AGENDA WHICH FORMED SUPPLEMENT TO APRIL ISSUE

AGENDA ITEM No. 5

Amendment submitted by the Yorkshire District Committee.

That the motion be amended by the substitution of the word "*inclusive*" for "*exclusive*" and the deletion of all the words after "*District Committee.*"

AGENDA ITEM No. 11

Amendment submitted by the Southern District Committee.

That paragraph 91 (pages 73 and 74) of the Report of the National Executive Council dealing with loans to student members of the Association be referred back to the Council for further consideration, with instructions to prepare a scheme for the assistance of students desiring to obtain professional and other qualifications, providing that such assistance shall not cover fees for tuition expenses.

AGENDA ITEM No. 12

Amendment submitted by the Dumbartonshire Branch.

Add the words "*with the exception in the case of Scotland.*"

AGENDA ITEM No. 13

Amendment submitted by the Dumbartonshire Branch.

That as notices of motion in accordance with the rules of the Association should be in the hands of the General Secretary by the 15th day of March, and that as copies of the Annual Report were not issued to Branches until the 31st day of March, this motion should be ruled out of order.

AGENDA ITEM No. 16

Notice of Motion No. IV

Amendment submitted by the East Midland District Committee.

Delete the words "*have non-contributory service calculated in sixtieths for the purpose of*" in the last three lines of the motion and substitute the following words "*a Superannuation.*"

Notice of Motion No. V

Amendment submitted by the Tottenham Branch.

That in any scheme formulated for amending the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, provision should be made to make it possible for the optional retirement of men at 60 years of age, not having completed 40 years' service, and for women to retire five years earlier than in the case of men.

AGENDA ITEM No. 18

Amendment submitted by the Dumbartonshire Branch.

That the following words in Section (4) line 2 "*render every possible assistance towards the*" be deleted and in place thereof the following words be inserted "*promote a bill for the compulsory.*"

AGENDA ITEM No. 21

Amendment submitted by the Rotherham Rural Branch.

That the National Executive Council be requested to consider the adoption of a scheme designed to afford hospital or nursing homes' treatment, particularly for those members and their dependents who at present are outside the scope of existing hospital aid societies.

AGENDA ITEM No. 23

Amendment submitted by the Hampton Branch.

That notice of motion given by the North-Western District Committee be amended to include the words "*or dependents*" after the word "*widows*" appearing in the second line of the motion given in the Agenda.

AGENDA ITEM No. 25

Amendment submitted by the South-Western District Committee.

To add after the words "*County Branches*" in the motion the words "*when recommended by the District Committee of their Area.*"

AGENDA ITEM No. 27

Amendment No. 1 submitted by the Dumbartonshire Branch.

After the word "*by*" in section (c) line 5, add the word "*council*" and delete the following words after the word "*March*" on line 8 of section (c) "*and that motions must be made by the Council not later than the 31st day of March.*"

Amendment No. 2 submitted by the Glasgow Branch.

After the word, "*the*" on the last line of paragraph (c) insert "*21st day of March.*" Delete "*31st day of March.*"

AGENDA ITEM No. 28

Amendment submitted by the Barking Branch.

That Rule 48 of the rules and constitution of the Association be amended to read as follows:—

"*On a casual vacancy arising among the ordinary members of the Council, the Council may, in its discretion, fill the vacancy by electing the unsuccessful candidate who polled the highest number of votes, in the District concerned, at the preceding election, or arrange for the election of a new member. In the event of a vacancy occurring under Rule 51 (3) the same procedure shall be adopted.*"

AGENDA ITEM No. 29

Amendment submitted by the Somerset Branch.

Delete the figures "2,500" in line 3 and substitute "3,500" therefor.

AGENDA ITEM No. 31

Amendment No. 1 submitted by the Manchester Branch.

That in all cases where the words "*Convalescent Home at Matlock*" appear in the notice of motion they shall be substituted by the words "*Convalescent Home or Homes.*"

Amendment No. 2 submitted by the Huddersfield Branch.

Rule 10(a)

Insert after the word "*may*" on first line "*with the approval of Conference.*"

AGENDA ITEM No. 32

(f) *From the Barry Urban District Council.*

Council Offices,
Barry, Glam.
April 11th, 1933.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by my Council to extend to the National Association of Local Government Officers a very cordial invitation to hold their Annual Conference in Barry during 1934.

Barry can offer attractions that can be offered by few seaside resorts in the country. There is a wealth of natural beauty in and around the district, and the Council by adopting a progressive policy have added to these attractions by wise expenditure of money.

It would give the Council pleasure to extend to the members of the Association the civic amenities which they usually enjoy in the towns previously selected for Conferences and I have no hesitation in saying that those members of the Association who have not hitherto visited Barry will receive an agreeable surprise.

I understand that the Association's Annual Conference has not been held in South Wales during the past 14 years. I think, therefore, that the South Wales members may reasonably ask their fellow members to again honour their district with a visit. I need hardly mention that in addition to the Council the members of the local branch of the Association would do everything in their power to make the visit an outstanding success.

Yours faithfully,
T. D. HOWELLS.

L. Hill, Esq., Secretary,
N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street,
London, S.W.1.

THE CITY MANAGER

For about twenty years there has been growing up in America the new profession of city management, and some recent details which are furnished by the International City Managers' Association are not without interest. It appears that more than one-fifth of all the cities in the United States, with 10,000 or more population, now operate under the council-manager plan; this percentage applies also to the cities of over 100,000 inhabitants. Of all the cities, over 25,000, that can adopt the manager plan under existing state law, one-third have done so.

As regards the city manager profession, 80 per cent. of the men entering the profession for the first time have served in some public position prior to their appointments. The average length of service of the 424 city managers holding office at the end of 1932 was five years six and one-half months, including all cities served; and 66 city managers now in active service have been in the profession for ten years or more.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

(*Continued from page 127*)

2. What are the criteria for judging how much local rate burden a district can stand without serious harm and how the criteria are applied to particular districts?

3. What are your views as to the probable future development of Local Government, with special reference to present tendencies and present needs?

The Competition is divided into two classes: Class I.—For officers whose salary is £250 per annum or more. Value of Prize: Three guineas; Class II.—For officers whose salary is less than £250 per annum. Value of Prize: Two guineas. The following are the rules of the competition:

1. The competition is open to all members of the N.A.L.G.O.

2. The essay may be in manuscript, typewritten, or printed.

3. No stipulation is made as to length.

4. The final selection by Sir Arthur Robinson must be taken as conclusive.

5. Essays must reach the General Secretary, N.A.L.G.O., 24 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on or before June 17, 1933.

6. Each essay must be headed with the title chosen, a *nom-de-plume*, and a note of whether the competitor desires his essay to be judged in Class I or Class II. A sealed envelope containing the author's name, address, and branch, and bearing on the outside his *nom-de-plume* and class, must accompany the essay. Indication of the identity should not appear on the essay.

7. The result of the competition will be announced prior to July 15, 1933.

It should be noted that entries for the Essay Competition cannot be acknowledged as the envelopes containing the names and addresses of the competitors will not be opened until the appointed day. An essay has already been received from "Lambhill."

The Scottish School

There is every indication that the branches and, in some instances, the Town Councils, are taking a special interest in the Scottish Summer School, which, as already mentioned, is to be held at St. Andrews during the week beginning June 24. Those who have never been to the School cannot have any conception of how profitable a holiday can be spent there. All students express their appreciation of the arrangements made for their comfort, of the fine entertainment received at St. Salvator's Hall, and of the happy time spent in association with colleagues. This year's School is to be opened by Lord Provost Buist of Dundee, a very good friend of the Association. The principal lecturers are Mr. D. T. Jack, M.A., of St. Andrews University; Mr. J. W. Nisbet, M.A., LL.B., of Glasgow University; and Dr. James A. Bowie, Principal of Dundee School of Economics and Commerce. Besides the morning lectures, there will be after-dinner talks by Dr. A. S. M. Macgregor, Medical Officer of Health of Glasgow; Mr. T. Cunningham Shanks, County Clerk of Clackmannan; Mr. W. D. Ritchie, M.A., Director of Education for Selkirk County; and Mr. G. H. Henderson of the Department of Health for Scotland.

Many branches, and also a few corporations, are giving grants towards the expenses of students.

These details of the forthcoming events at Oxford and St. Andrews afford an impression of the admirable arrangements which have been made to enable officers to combine an educational treat with an enjoyable holiday. The great value of the Summer Schools, as Mr. Lord, the President of the Association, has so well said, is that they enable the Local Government Officer to get out of the rut of his ordinary official duties and to be brought into closer contact, not only with his brother officers in other districts, but with men of academic training and of wide vision outside the service, who are making a very special study of local government and social problems.

PROVINCIAL WHITLEY COUNCILS

NEED FOR AN ENLIGHTENED OUTLOOK: HOW BRANCHES CAN HELP

BY THE ORGANISING SECRETARY

IT is earnestly hoped that the appeal made by the National Executive Council, contained in Circular No. 18 of March 1, for immediate and active work towards increasing the number of Provincial Whitley Councils for administrative, professional, technical and clerical staffs in the Local Government Service, has received consideration and enthusiastic support by the Branches.

Headquarters Pamphlet

This subject has been dealt with regularly in the Journal commencing with the November, 1932, publication, and much informative matter has been supplied. On April 21, a 4-page pamphlet, concisely setting out information relating to the constitution and aims of Provincial Whitley Councils, was issued to Branches. Further copies may be obtained on application to Headquarters for circulation to members of Executive Committees and Branches. They should also be useful when soliciting the sympathy and support of Councillors and Councils.

To cultivate favourable opinion amongst members should not be difficult if they have perused the literature on the subject, but it must be recognised that it may take time to elicit the support of the other essential partners in Provincial Councils, i.e., the Councils themselves.

It is noted that members of some of the Branches who are keenly interested in the subject have been asked to expound it at branch meetings. Most of the members are ready to admit that salaries, for example, should be related to some accepted and well-recognised standard for the area. Mutual agreement between representatives of the Councils and the Association, with regard to scales providing an adequate salary for new entrants, which shall be progressive, subject to satisfactory service, until a living and marrying wage is reached at a reasonable age, is as essential for the Local Government Service as for any other comparable service.

The Minister of Health has advocated that scales should be adopted, and there is no justification for the extremely wide variation in practice between one authority and another. The first grade of such a scale should at least offer a modest career to every entrant to the service, and above that there should be merit grades for those with extra responsibilities.

How is this to be achieved? At present each authority is a law unto itself, and usually a very bad law. The officer usually suffers, and there is hardly a Local Government scale in the country which shows anything but a very unfavourable contrast with those applicable in, say, the Civil Service, with the banks, and other comparable services.

Unless the representatives of the local authorities for an area get together with representatives of the Association, and endeavour to set up standards to guide local authorities within that area, the chaotic position of to-day will not be improved.

Appeal to Members

The Association wants every one of its members to appreciate these facts and to raise his voice in request for Provincial Whitley Councils. To be successful in that request, he must see that members of local authorities are well informed of the advantages of such Councils, that they exist in all other branches of the public service, in industry and elsewhere, and form the modern machinery by which the relationship between employer and employed is kept on a satisfactory footing. If that be done, when the time arrives for the Councils to be asked to appoint representatives to a conference to consider the setting up of Whitley Councils, the idea will be received with approval, and it will be a relatively simple matter to settle a constitution and get the Councils in working order.

A National Council

These bodies have been eminently satisfactory in the County of London, in Lancashire and Cheshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, and they would regularise all questions of conditions of service in a manner that would be most beneficial to the Councils, the officials and the community. When in full working order it would be desirable to have a National Council, or Councils, to deal with the bigger issues common to the country as a whole, and it might be desirable, also, to have local committees to apply to individual authorities the decisions of the Provincial Councils, and to deal with purely local matters.

At the moment the important matter is to establish Provincial Councils and as an essential precedent, to cultivate a favourable outlook thereto among staffs and Councils. This latter can be done by the local branches with the co-operation and assistance of the National Executive Council and the District Committees.

AMERICAN POLITICAL LIFE

Of Thee I Sing, a musical play by G. S. Kaufman and M. Ryskind (Gollancz, 5s.) is a satire on American political life. The play opens with a presidential election; the party leaders, at a loss for an election stunt, finally hit upon a "love appeal." A beauty competition is to be held in the States, the successful competitor to become the wife of the President. All seems to be going well until the candidate falls in love with his secretary and refuses to marry the "beauty" victor. Though obviously overdrawn, as Hogarth drew his caricatures that one might not miss their import, this satire on public life in America is excellent.

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12	June 24	13 days	Norway, Zoppot, Copenhagen, &c.	£12
15	July 8	13 days	Morocco, Teneriffe, Lisbon, &c. ...	£12
16	July 8	13 days	Norway, Zoppot, Copenhagen, &c.	£12
19	July 22	13 days	Morocco, Teneriffe, Corunna, &c.	£12
20	July 25	14 days	Norway, Zoppot, Copenhagen, &c.	£13
23	Aug. 5	13 days	Morocco, Barcelona, Algiers, &c.	*Full*
25	Aug. 19	14 days	Lisbon, Barcelona, Palma, &c. ...	*Full*

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10	June 17	13 days	Ceuta, Madeira, Teneriffe, Las Palmas, Lisbon ...	£22	£12
11	June 24	14 days	Algiers, Naples, Ceuta ...	£22	£12
14	July 1	13 days	Corunna, Ceuta, Barcelona, Lisbon	£22	£12
18	July 15	13 days	Algiers, Barcelona, Ceuta, Vigo	£22	£12
22	July 29	13 days	Corunna, Ceuta, Barcelona, Lisbon	£22	£12

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3	May 12	28 days	Egypt, Syria, Istanbul, &c. ...	45 gns.
5	May 19	22 days	Sousse, Itea, Naples, &c. ...	37 gns.
9	June 10	14 days	Spain, Monaco, Lisbon, &c.	23 gns.
17	July 14	14 days	Morocco, Madeira, Teneriffe, &c.	23 gns.
21	July 29	20 days	Norway, Northern Capitals, &c.	30 gns.
24	Aug. 12	20 days	Venice, Dalmatia, Sicily, &c.	35 gns.
26	Aug. 19	21 days	Algiers, Naples, Monte Carlo, &c.	36 gns.
27	Sept. 2§	13 days	Monte Carlo, Naples, Algiers, &c.	22 gns.
28	Sept. 16§	14 days	Madeira, Teneriffe, Las Palmas, &c.	23 gns.

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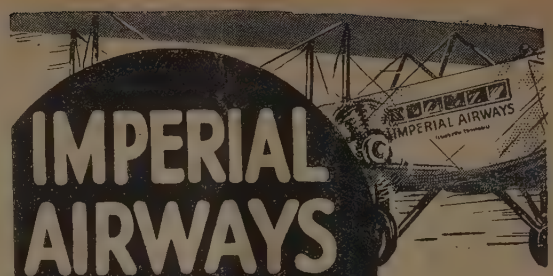

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PERSONALIA

RETIREMENT OF MR. F. W. GREENHALGH: PRESENTATION TO MR. R. EUSTACE JOY: NEW TOWN CLERK AND CITY TREASURER OF CARDIFF

Mr. F. W. Greenhalgh, M.B.E.

One of the most prominent figures in Poor-Law administration for many years, Mr. F. W. Greenhalgh, M.B.E., Chief Public Assistance Officer of Manchester, is to retire shortly. Mr. Greenhalgh entered the Service some 33 years ago, obtaining his early training under the late Mr. David S. Bloomfield, Clerk to the Guardians of the Chorlton Union, later known as the Township of South Manchester. In 1909 he was promoted to the post of Deputy Clerk, a position which he occupied until 1915, when the Poor-Law authorities in Manchester were amalgamated to form the Manchester Union. At the first meeting of the then new Board he was unanimously appointed Deputy Clerk, and at the end of 1925 he was promoted to the office of Clerk to the Board, one of the most responsible positions in local administration. When the transfer of functions under the Local Government Act took place, he became Chief Public Assistance Officer of Manchester, and as such has continued to hold the principal executive responsibility for the discharge of relief duties during a period of exceptional pressure upon the machinery of Public Assistance.

Mr. Greenhalgh's genius for administrative work and his organising ability have always been at the service of his colleagues. In 1928 he filled with distinction the office of First Vice-President of the National Poor-Law Officers' Association, and he was one of the representatives of that body on the conference of officers' organisations which dealt with matters affecting officers arising out of the Local Government Act. His career of service to his fellow-officers was fittingly rewarded in 1929 by his election as President of the National Association, in which capacity he added still further to the debt owed to him by the administration.

MR. D. KENVYN REES
New Town Clerk of Cardiff

When Mr. G. Cecil Brown, LL.B., the president-elect of N.A.L.G.O., retires from his office as Town Clerk of Cardiff, he will be succeeded by his deputy, Mr. D. Kenvyn Rees. Mr. Rees joined the Cardiff Corporation as Assistant Solicitor immediately after the war and was later appointed Prosecuting Solicitor on the Town Clerk's staff. He became Deputy Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Peace in 1923.

Mr. R. Eustace Joy

Mr. R. Eustace Joy, M.A., D.L., retired from the position of Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the Staffordshire County Council on March 31, after 26 years' distinguished service in that capacity. A large and representative gathering of the staff assembled to make a farewell presentation to Mr. Joy. The presentation took the form of a George I silver tankard, accompanied by an illuminated address, in album form, bound in blue morocco, and with the arms of the county embossed in burnished gold, sepia and black. The address read as follows:—

To Richard Eustace Joy, Esq., M.A., D.L.,

We, the undersigned members of the staff of the Staffordshire County Council, desire to place on record our sincere appreciation of our indebtedness to you for the high standard of service which you have rendered to the county of Stafford during your 26 years of office as Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the County Council. We thank you for the unfailing courtesy which you have extended to us at all times and for the assistance which you have always given us. We wish you great happiness and the best of health for many years in your well-merited retirement.

Mr. C. A. W. Wood, County Accountant, presided at the function, and Mr. Thomas Dale (Registration Clerk), the oldest member on the staff, made the presentation. Mr. Joy suitably responded. Miss L. H. Wooldridge made a presentation to Mrs. Joy. The arrangements were made by the N.A.L.G.O. Branch Committee, of which Mr. J. M. Hotchkiss (County Estate Agent) was chairman.

The Late Mr. J. Ward

We regret to announce the death of Mr. James Ward, late Director of Education for Leigh. Mr. Ward was the first hon. secretary of the Leigh Branch, of which he was an active member up to his retirement from local government work six years ago. He maintained his association with the branch as a retired member, and was greatly respected by all who came into contact with him.

The Late Mr. A. J. Scutt

The Reigate Branch regrets to report the death of Mr. A. J. Scutt, who had served the Reigate Corporation for nearly thirty years, first in the Borough Surveyor's Department and later as chief clerk in the Borough Accountant's Department. He was at his desk less than a week before his death, in spite of an illness which had curtailed his many pursuits for several years. Mr. Scutt had been a member of the Reigate Branch since its inception, and for one period was honorary treasurer of the branch. The funeral was attended by a large number of the Reigate officials, the Branch being represented by the President (Mr. J. P. Humphery) and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. A. Bristow).

MOVEMENTS OF MEMBERS

Banks, E., Eastbourne, to Ipswich C.B. as Solicitor.

Beeney, R. A. L., Brighton, to Portsmouth, post in the Surveyor's Dept.

Brown, W., Greenock, to Stirling as Burgh Factor.

Butler, F., Chester, to Derbyshire C. Council as Superintendent Relieving Officer.

Cann, J., Coventry, to Flint County as Ledger Clerk.

Clifford, P. A., Pontefract and District Branch, to an appointment under the Newcastle-under-Lyme Council.

Critchley, Dr. A. M., West Suffolk, to Bath as Assistant M.O.H.

Davison, R. L., Sunderland, to Superintendent Attendance Officer, under the Edmonton U.D.C.

(*Continued at foot of col. 3*)

MR. E. W. BARKER
New City Treasurer of Cardiff

Mr. E. W. Barker, Deputy City Treasurer of Cardiff, will succeed Mr J. Allcock, the City Treasurer, on the latter's retirement in June. Mr. Barker commenced his municipal career at Loughborough, and subsequently served at Nottingham and Bristol. He was appointed to Cardiff in 1932.

(*Continued from col. 2*)

Fox, E., Dover, to Folkestone as General Clerk.

Goss, W. J., Hants County, to Winchester as Clerk.

Hanson, W., Smethwick, to Dorset C.C. as Inspector of Weights & Measures.

Heyle, H., Huddersfield, to Hastings as Assistant Master.

Hoyle, H., Huddersfield, to Assistant Master, under the Hastings Town Council.

James, R., Middlesbrough, to Workington as Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Jarvis, W. T., Beckenham, to Leatherhead U.D.C. as Costing Clerk.

Jeeves, H., Stoke Newington, to Assistant Registrar, Fulham.

Knight, F., Newton-in-Makerfield, to Pontefract as Clerk in Accountant's Dept.

Miss Caple, West Riding, to Hoylake U.D.C. as Assistant Librarian.

Parkinson, H., Bootle, to Oldham as Sanitary Inspector.

Preston, R., Lancaster, to Leigh Borough as Assistant Town Clerk.

Riley, W., West Riding County Officers' Branch, to Senior Sanitary Inspector, under the Keighley Borough Council.

Root, Miss I., Ipswich, to Public Assistance Institution, Billericay, Essex C.C.

Shelley, Miss C., Portsmouth & District, to Kensington.

Stedman, F. R., Huddersfield, to Junior Clerk at Knaresborough County Institution, under the West Riding County Council.

Smith, J. R., Hamilton, to Greenock as Burgh Assessor.

CORUNNA: AN ANCIENT TOWN OF MANY CHARMS

N.A.L.G.O. HOLIDAYS AT HOME AND ABROAD

FORTHCOMING TOUR OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC ISLANDS: PROGRESS AT THE NEW CAMP AT CAYTON BAY

SUNNY SPAIN! Is there not magic in the words? The name alone is suggestive of happiness, scintillating seas, and entrancing scenery, of laughter and good cheer, and all the joys that make life in a workaday world worth while. Like a wondrous Aladdin's lamp, it conjures up visions of a perfect holiday amid scenes which, of their kind, are unsurpassed in the Western Hemisphere. This is a holiday which is possible for every local government officer through the facilities offered by N.A.L.G.O.

Particularly since the war, facilities for foreign travel have been brought within the reach of the man in the street to an extent never hitherto known. The increasing provision which is being made for summer cruises into the romantic watering places of Northern Spain, the quaint spots in Portugal, and the sun-kissed Canary Islands emphasises the tendency among Britishers to depart from the conventional type of holiday at a home resort, and seek adventure in the care-free sojourn on board a ship in parts of the world which previously have been familiar to them in the story books.

Long before this type of holiday became a general vogue, the National Association of Local Government Officers, co-operating with the Yeoward Line, Ltd., made available to its members the opportunity of travelling in this way, and its annual summer cruises have become an established part of its numerous activities. Each year the s.s. *Avoceta* carries a happy party of local government officers and their friends to the popular islands of the South Atlantic, and those who have made up this party bring back with them a wealth of happy memories of pleasant hours spent ploughing the waters and visiting places of interest *en route*.

Corunna, or La Coruna as it is known in Spain, is one of the early ports of call on the Canary Islands cruise which will depart from Liverpool on July 29 for 22 days at an inclusive fare of £23. It is a town which possesses many charms. It is the capital of the province bearing its name, and is picturesquely situated on a promontory between two bays. It is a busy seaport of the old Kingdom of Galicia, and a call at this historic and beautiful harbour affords an opportunity of visiting the famous battlefield of the Peninsular War, and of touring the delightful scenery of Galicia on the way to the University city of Santiago.

The mild climate enjoyed by Corunna makes the flora of its gardens, with their magnificent palm trees, and of the surrounding country, as luxuriant as in the southern provinces of Spain, while the city itself presents many features of beauty and historic interest dating back to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The visitor will find the broad, fine boulevards and imposing buildings objects of extraordinary interest. His attention will be particularly arrested by the Palacio Municipal, the centre of the municipal government of the city, which dominates the magnificent Maria Pita Square, as imposing by day as under the influence of flood-lighting by night.

A feature of particular interest is the ancient Tower (or Lighthouse) of Hercules, built on a commanding eminence overlooking the sea, and from the top of which a fine panoramic view is obtained. The scene of the famous battle, known locally as Elvina, is only a short distance from the centre of the city. Sir John Moore lies buried in the garden of San Carlos, where a simple memorial marks his last resting-place.

CAYTON BAY

Active preparations are under way for the completion—ready for a grand opening on July 1—of the Association's latest acquisition, Cayton Bay Holiday Camp. The popularity among Southern, and even to some extent among Midland members, of the Croyde Bay Camp, in Devonshire, has inspired the Association to spare neither thought nor expense in making the new holiday camp one of the finest of its kind in the country, and northern members may count themselves singularly fortunate in having such facilities in their midst.

Croyde Bay was an entirely new venture for the Association. From its inauguration the movement "caught on," and subsequent extension of the premises has not wholly satisfied the demand. Benefiting by the experience which its first camp provided, N.A.L.G.O. has planned the Cayton Bay camp on bungalow lines. One hundred and twenty-four of these attractive domiciles, with accommodation for the individual visitor or the family party, are being provided. Each bungalow has a verandah porch and is fitted inside with built-in wardrobe, lavatory basin, and water supply.

Electric light will be an added comfort of the camp buildings.

Our illustration affords an impression of the attractive surroundings in which the camp will be situated. The gardens, lovely rock, and the facilities which are to be provided for various recreations, including bowling greens, tennis courts, and a miniature golf course, together with the unrivalled bathing facilities available, should ensure a thoroughly self-contained holiday within the camp's precincts. Cayton Bay is, of course, within easy reach of Scarborough.

The photograph below is that of the beach bungalow which is a few yards from the sands. It will be used as a dressing room and lounge and for refreshments.

BEACH BUNGALOW AT CAYTON BAY CAMP

COLCHESTER SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Colchester Branch were entertained by members of the Borough Accountant's Department on March 23, over 250 assembling in the Albert Hall. The Mayor and Mayoress and several members of the Council were present.

A programme of plays, sketches, musical items, etc., provided a pleasant evening. This is the third of these evenings which have now come to be known as the Borough Accountant's Department "Surprise Evenings," the audience being unaware of the type of programme they are going to receive. As on previous occasions, Mr. C. Nicholson was producer, and a strong committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. S. Jennings, made the arrangements.

A party of ninety-five, including the Mayor and Mayoress, Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, and several members of the Council, proceeded to London by road and visited Drury Lane Theatre. The day was spent at the Ideal Homes Exhibition at Olympia.

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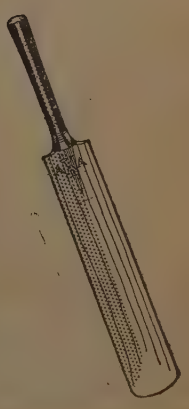

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Stuarts

METROPOLITAN GOLF COMPETITION

UNDER perfect weather conditions, on March 29, the Metropolitan District Golf Competition, which had been in abeyance for five years, took place on the Shirley Park Course, Croydon. The competition, which was for the *Municipal Journal* Challenge Trophy, was over 36 holes score play, and 38 N.A.L.G.O. members, representing 19 branches, with handicaps ranging from 3 to 20—the latter being the limit allowed—took part. Considering the different districts from which competitors had to travel, it speaks well for the organisation that there was hardly any delay in the appointed starting times. An excellent lunch followed the morning round, and the competitors were eager to become further acquainted with the pleasantly situated course, whether they had played good or bad golf. Mr. S. Lord (Acton), the president, was the leader of the morning round with a net score of 75, closely followed by Mr. Metcalfe (Ruislip) with 76. Mr. Lord continued his consistent play of the morning and returned another 75 for the afternoon, and Mr. Metcalfe followed with the next best—78. Mr. Lord was, therefore, adjudged the winner, with a total net score of 150, and Mr. Metcalfe the runner-up with 154.

Presentation of Prizes

In the absence of Mr. W. B. Wignall (Mitcham), Mr. L. Hill, the general secretary, who was supported by Mr. W. E. Lloyd (Hampstead), hon. treasurer of N.A.L.G.O., kindly undertook the pleasing duty of presenting the cup and souvenirs, etc., to the various competitors. In doing so, Mr. Hill said how impressed he had been with the successful organisation of the competition, which had been carried out without the slightest hitch, and also of the splendid course and the good fellowship displayed by all the competitors.

Mr. Lord, in acknowledging the congratulations of the members on his success, also referred to the enjoyable nature of the gathering, and proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Shirley Park Golf Committee and to the staff for their kindness and courtesy which had done so much to make the day memorable.

Mr. Metcalfe, in supporting the vote of thanks to the Shirley Park Club, said he had taken part in many competitions of this nature, but he had never experienced one more enjoyable and better arranged. The thanks of all were due to Mr. Nelson, who had left nothing to chance—not even the weather.

Competition Results

The results of the competition and sweepstakes were as follows :—

Winner of Trophy and Souvenir—Mr. S. Lord (Acton), president of N.A.L.G.O. Morning round, 90-15-75. Afternoon round, 90-15-75. Total net score, 150.

Runner-up Souvenir—Mr. H. R. Metcalfe (Ruislip). Morning round, 80-4-76. Afternoon round, 82-4-78. Total net score, 154.

Sweepstakes.—Thirty-six holes. Winner, Mr. S. Lord (Acton); runner-up, Mr. H. R. Metcalfe (Ruislip). Eighteen holes (morning). Winner, Mr. H. R. Metcalfe (Ruislip); runner-up, Mr. H. R. White (Epping Forest). Eighteen holes (afternoon). Winner, Mr. S. Lord (Acton); runners-up (tied), Mr. T. C. F. Paige (West Middlesex), Mr. M. E. Morse (Port of London), Miss B. Keogh (West Ham).

It was the general wish that an autumn meeting should be arranged, and the Hon. Secretary was asked to bring this matter to the notice of all N.A.L.G.O. golfing members in the Metropolitan District, with a view to their attending such a meeting. Enthusiastic support was promised and Metropolitan District N.A.L.G.O. golf players should, therefore, make a point of communicating with Mr. W. Nelson, Education Office, Croydon, hon. secretary of the Golf Section, in order that due notice of any future arrangements made may be sent to them.

COMPULSORY SUPERANNUATION

CLAIMS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: PREPARING THE WAY FOR A NATIONAL MEASURE

BY THE ORGANISING SECRETARY

THE increased interest in this subject excited in Lancashire and Cheshire by the address to representatives of local authorities in Manchester at the end of January by the President, Mr. S. Lord, is being shared by local authorities and branches in many districts. Amongst the places where applications are under consideration at the moment are Oldham, Barrow-in-Furness, and Chingford.

It is very disappointing to learn definitely from the Minister of Health that there is no prospect of finding Government time next year for a compulsory Superannuation Bill. The National Executive Council will take all possible steps to ensure that a Private Member's Bill dealing with the subject will be introduced at the first opportunity, and it is hoped that it will have the good fortune to find a member willing to sponsor such a Bill, and one who, as in 1922, may secure first place in the ballot for Private Member's Bills.

In the meantime, why wait? Public bodies and the community are realising the fallacy of the concentration of mere reduction in expenditure, and getting back to the more sane outlook of other days. On all hands the community is exhorted to "spend for employment." Why not prepare the ground for favourable consideration and arrange to bring Superannuation before the local authority where a scheme is not in operation?

A statement made up to December 31 last, showing the authorities with, and without, schemes, can be obtained by branches desiring to prepare a case to present to their Councils, and other assistance can be obtained on request to Headquarters or the Divisional Officer.

Recently, schemes have been applied to one or two great industrial firms which, unlike most of such firms, had not provided for pensions to their employees. They realise the demands of modern conditions and accept superannuation on the dual grounds of efficiency and economy.

Facts for Authorities

Some of the points presented in an application addressed from Headquarters to a local authority are set out below :—

"All classes of public officers, nationally and locally, come under superannuation schemes, and it is only the administrative, technical and clerical officers of local authorities who are not covered by a general and compulsory scheme. The permissive Act of 1922 has, however, been adopted by 46 out of the 62 County Councils, and by 59 out of the 83 County Boroughs, and the total number of authorities with schemes for such officers now exceeds 900. As a consequence the great majority of the administrative, technical and clerical officers of local authorities do come under superannuation schemes at the present time. The officers of your Council form part of the small minority of local government officers not provided for.

"The Councils' own protective Association, the Association of Municipal Corporations, came to the following conclusion on the subject :

"A system for the superannuation of Local Government Officers is based upon real economy and is necessary, not only, nor indeed primarily, for the benefit of the officers themselves, but in the interests of the Local Authorities and of the inhabitants whom they represent. The obligation placed on the community to assist in the provision of superannuation allowances is a trifling burden compared with the increased efficiency which the adoption of the Act will secure.

"All the associations of local authorities have expressed themselves in favour of superannuation.

"It cannot be long before a compulsory measure will be enacted to cover the outstanding authorities and their officers, but your officers would greatly appreciate the adoption by the Council voluntarily and by conviction of the Act of 1922, whilst the discretion in this direction can be exercised by the Council. This step is advocated by the Association, nationally and locally, as a measure of true economy to the Council and the ratepayers, as well as an act of justice to the officers. The continued increase in the number of authorities adopting the Act, even during the 'economy' campaign, is undoubtedly due to the growing realisation that a scheme of superannuation represents true economy and is a sound business proposition. Fifty local authorities adopted the Act during 1932.

An Actuary's Report

"Delay in adoption results in the loss to the Superannuation Fund of contributions from the existing officers. An actuary reported to a Council that the annual charge to meet the initial liability to the superannuation fund, which is spread over forty years, would be increased by 7 per cent. through a delay of one year in adoption and 14 per cent. if delayed for two years. A further report of an actuary on the subject was :

"'A well-considered superannuation scheme tends to economy in the service, since it has been estimated that the effect of its introduction is to reduce the salaries bill in the long run by 5 per cent. or even more; and by opening up the avenues of promotion, it is a most valuable instrument for securing energetic and up-to-date service. The adoption of the superannuation scheme can, therefore, be justified on the strictest business principles.'

"There are probably more people who come under superannuation schemes outside the public service than within. Over 300 concerns have joined together to form an Association of Superannuation and Pension Funds, at least 300,000 persons are included in those schemes. Approximately 1,000 pension schemes have received official approval under the Finance Act of 1921, and at least 750,000 members are included in those schemes.

"The adoption of the Act of 1922 provides a remedy for the problem of dealing with the aged and infirm officer, and makes unnecessary the subterfuges which, in the past, have often been resorted to in the direction of 'consulting' appointments and the maintenance on the pay-roll of persons who have ceased to be able to render normal service to an authority."

Details showing the position in the local area would be valuable for support to an application.

INSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

The national council and annual general meetings of the National Association of Administrators of Local Government Establishments (late Masters' and Matrons' Association) will be held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.2, on Saturday, June 24.

You CANNOT buy a BETTER Stormproof than the

"Mattamac" (Reg'd)

19oz. Featherweight STORMPROOF

The "Mattamac" was sold through Retailers in 1922 at 42/-, in 1925 at 35/-, and in 1928 at 29/6. DIRECT SELLING, from MAKER-to-WEARER, saved the Retailer's profit and brought down the price from 29/6 to 21/-. Vastly increased demand brings about further savings which we pass on to the Customer.

Each year some improvement or refinement has been added, yet to-day's price for this, the same standard Coat and the World's *best and best-value* Featherweight Stormproof, is 17/6. . . . . There is no better lightweight Stormproof made to-day, *whatever its selling price.*

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A "Mattamac" Stormproof is equal in appearance to the usual best-grade Gabardine Weatherproof. In utility, also, it equals the much-more-costly Coat. It weighs one-third, gives lasting wear, and **is absolutely waterproof.**

In 11 Models, 17 Shades, 40 Sizes

Light and compact-folding, Wind, Chill and Wet proof, a "Mattamac" Stormproof is *ideal* for Business and Everyday wear as well as for Week-Ends and Holidays. Get one now for your Outings and Rambles and be independent of the weather.

The new Elstor Mattamac STORMPROOF at 12/6

This new "Elstor-Mattamac" is a triumph of value. It has been produced specially to meet the need for a lower-priced *thoroughly reliable* featherweight Stormproof.

The "Elstor-Mattamac" is guaranteed to be *utterly waterproof.* It is made from a slightly less-costly grade of genuine "Matta" Fabric. Its stylish cut and fashionable "hang" make it a worthy addition to the famous "Mattamac" range. *It looks good and it is good.* You can buy and wear it with full confidence. It will keep you dry and give sound wear and service.

This "Elstor" Model carries the full "Mattamac" guarantee of honest workmanship and wearing satisfaction. We have *had* to economise on certain of the refinements which make the standard 17/6 "Mattamac" the finest light-weight Stormproof in the World. This has not affected in the least the main purpose, which is, *to keep you dry.* Like the standard 17/6 "Mattamac," this "Elstor-Mattamac" at 12/6 is unquestionably the best Stormproof-value procurable to-day, *at its price or anything near.*

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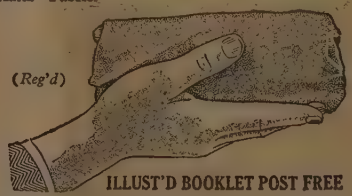

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LIVERPOOL: 7 Church Street; MANCHESTER: 39 Market Street; NOTTINGHAM: 15 Bridlesmith Gate; PLYMOUTH: 49 George Street; SHEFFIELD: 35 Surrey Street.

BOOK REVIEWS

(*Continued from page 124*)

those who lived in the age of *laissez-faire* cannot be good enough for a society which is demanding a greater extension of those services which will result in public, rather than private, benefit. In this respect, it is pointed out that those who wield power are often too anxious to retain the *status quo* rather than to experiment with new conceptions of what is required from the State, for the simple reason that they are specialists in their own departments, and, as a result of their specialist training, are unable to visualise society as a whole. What is required is a body of men capable of discussing major schemes in their entirety and, having arrived at their conclusions, the specialists should be left to work out the details.

In this chapter are also discussed the functions of money in modern society, and a sharp contrast is drawn between the system of private enterprise, whereby the prospective employee who offers his services for the lowest wage will get the job, and that in operation in the greater part of publicly-controlled undertakings, where-by conditions of employment are determined by means of Whitley Councils, to the benefit of employer, employed, and the public.

That section of the book which deals with the revolutionary claim should cause reflection amongst those who have any regard for public welfare. Law and order are eminently desirable and should be preserved at all costs, but if circumstances, which are a direct negation of the elements of justice, are forced upon the people by those whom we have been accustomed to regard as custodians of our rights, something must happen. Fortunately the history of the past one hundred and fifty years has proved that when the cable has become taut, the "Con-cessionists" have let it go "a little." The events which followed so rapidly on the heels of the collapse of the Labour Government during August, 1931, have proved that extremi-ties must be reached in this country before a revolution will be thought of, but if conditions are allowed to reach breaking-point there will be a long period of turmoil, which will mean "pain and suffering and the tragic confusion of means without ends. The innocent not less than the guilty are its victims."

The conclusion of this work is an admirable summary of the whole thesis; it is a moving appeal to thinking men and women to grip the reins before the horse bolts, dragging behind it to destruction those whose ideals are peace, prosperity and justice. Will this appeal fall on deaf ears?—D.J.P.

THE CHIEF, by Carlton Dawe. (Messrs. Ward Lock & Co.) Price 7s. 6d. net.

Dick Cortland, returning to England and stranded in London, meets an old friend who finds him work with his own employer, whom he designates "The Chief." When Cortland meets this employer she is found to be a girl of great beauty, and it soon becomes obvious that the business is—but Mr. Dawe must tell this, which he does in a very exciting story.

THE BRIDGE FORUM

CONTRACT BIDDING

By NEVILLE HOBSON

Competition

As a test is often of assistance to those struggling with a new card game, the Editor has agreed to my running a competition next month. In the meantime, it is necessary to deal with a few more bidding problems.

Supporting a Bid

When holding proper Trump support (3 to the Queen, or 4 small ones) and 1½ Quick Tricks, the partner's bid should be raised to 2; and any further increase in the Playing Trick strength will justify a proportionately higher raise.

If therefore, North opens with a bid of One Spade, and—after a pass by East—South holds the following, he should bid 2 Spades.

S. Q, x, x.	*H.* x, x, x
D. A, Q, x.	*C.* x, x, x, x.

One of the golden rules of Contract is, however, that the full value of a Raise (as distinct from showing a new Suit) must be bid at once; so that if South had held the Ace of Clubs in addition (i.e., 2½ Quick Tricks) as well as the requisite Trump support, he should at once bid 3 Spades (that is, the top weight of his hand in the suit originally called by his partner).

Bidding Alternative Suit

If, following a Bid of One Spade by North and a pass by East, South held the following hands, he should bid in (*a*) 2 Hearts, (*b*) One No Trump.

(*a*)	(*b*)
S. x, x.	*S.* x, x, x.
H. K, Q, x, x, x.	*H.* K, Q, x.
D. A, x, x.	*D.* A, x, x, x
C. x, x, x.	*C.* x, x, x.

If, in (*b*) the Diamond holding had been A, Q, x, x (so as to make up the Quick Tricks to 2½), the correct bid would have been 2 No Trumps, and if 3 Quick Tricks had been held, a bid of 3 No Trumps might have been made, or a Forcing take out.

Forcing Take Out

This is sometimes referred to as a "Jump Bid" in a different suit, and is made after an opening bid by one's partner when holding 3 to 3½ Quick (or Honour) Tricks, though it is very advisable that the trump suit selected should have at least 5 cards.

A Jump Bid is a call of one more than is required to overcall a previous bid. If, for example, North calls One Club, a bid by South of 2 of any suit is a "forcing bid," and as soon as any forcing bid has been made, it is understood that each partner must keep the bidding open until a Game Contract has been arrived at.

[Note, however, that a Jump Bid in the same suit, or even in No Trumps, is not forcing. For example, a Bid of 2 No Trumps by South following an initial bid of One in another suit by North does not definitely compel North to bid Game, though as a general rule he would endeavour to do so.]

The following holdings may assist in illustrating these principles.

North	*South*
S. K, Q, x.	*S.* x, x.
H. x, x.	*H.* A, K, x, x, x.
D. x, x, x.	*D.* A, Q, x.
C. A, Q, x, x, x.	*C.* x, x, x.

Bidding

North. 1 Club.
South. 2 Hearts (a Jump Bid).
North. 2 No Trumps.
South. 3 No Trumps.

In the above case, North only having his minimum requirement of 2½ Quick Tricks (or Honour Tricks, as they are frequently termed) and not being able to support Hearts, cannot bid his hand further, so indicates this by making a bid of 2 No Trumps. South has no alternative biddable suit and he cannot bid his Hearts further, but he can go to 3 No Trumps, which should clearly be done.

North	*South*
S. x, x, x, x.	*S.* A, K, x, x, x.
H. A, K, x, x.	*H.* Q, x.
D. x, x,.	*D.* Q, x, x.
C. K, x, x.	*C.* A, x, x.

Bidding

North. 1 Heart.
South. 2 Spades (Forcing).
North. 3 Spades.
South. 4 Spades.

After South's forcing bid in Spades, North can raise to 3, as (although only holding 2½ Honour Tricks), he has additional supporting tricks in the form of extra Trump length and a Doubleton (which is usually regarded as about half a trick).

Negative Responses

These usually take the form of a No Trump bid, after one's Partner has made a "forcing bid," i.e., either an initial bid of 2, or a Jump raise, as indicated above.

Forcing 2 Bid

This is an important initial bid, to indicate the holding of 5 to 5½ Honour Tricks, and requires the Partner to keep the bidding open till a game is reached. This must be considered in a future article, and the test next month will contain no question on an initial bid of this kind.

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months; November, 43; December, 43; January, 42; February, 41; March 39, April, 37. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follow:

	FEB.	MAR.	APR.
Food	22	19	15
Rent	55	55	55
Clothing	85	85	85
Fuel and Light	75	75	75
Other Items	75	75	75

The fall in prices in the Food group is largely accounted for by further reduction in the price of eggs, and by reductions in the prices of butter, cheese, fish and potatoes.

Greenwich Branch, which at present issues its "N.A.L.G.O. Notes" typed on foolscap, is considering the possibility of enlarging the publication, bringing it into line with more ambitious periodical publications issued by a number of the branches, some of which were sent to Mr. Foulger, the Branch Secretary, in response to his appeal in last month's LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

Be well groomed not gummed!

BRYLCREEM does not contain Gum, and cannot cause flake in the hair, or set it hard—yet it controls the hair perfectly. BRYLCREEM possesses definite properties which promote hair growth, eradicate scurf, and give lustre to the hair. BRYLCREEM is also better than Brilliantine and it goes further

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A SUCCESSFUL LIBEL ACTION

A LIBEL action came before Mr. Justice Hawke and a common jury at the Manchester Assizes on April 4 and 5 last. The plaintiffs, who are members of N.A.L.G.O., were Mr. E. A. Stewart and Mr. S. Crossley (Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector and Road Foreman respectively to the Wardle Urban District Council). The defendant was Mrs. Annie Wilson, of Smallbridge.

The plaintiffs claimed damages for libel and an injunction to restrain the defendant from further publishing the alleged libels or any similar libel. The defendant entered a defence that the allegations complained of were true and made in the interests of the ratepayers, and pleading justification.

Mr. Goldie, K.C., M.P., and Mr. Green, instructed by Messrs. McDonnell, Jackson & Co. (Solicitors of N.A.L.G.O.), appeared for the plaintiffs. The defendant conducted her own defence.

The Plaintiffs' Case

In his opening address, Mr. Goldie said that the defendant at one time owned some cottage property at Wardle, and was the wife of a Mr. Wilson, who was a lamplighter in the employ of the Wardle Council. On several occasions, Mr. Stewart had to complain to the defendant with regard to the insanitary and derelict condition of property. In the autumn of 1931, Mr. Stewart found it necessary to reprimand the defendant's husband because of the manner in which his duties as lamplighter were being performed.

On October 25, 1931, the defendant addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Wardle Council asking to be allowed to appear before that body. She was sent a reply by the Clerk to the Council asking her why she desired to appear before the Council. On November 12, 1931, the defendant wrote to the Clerk: "I want to ask if it is your Surveyor's business to tell malicious lies and to interfere with the proper business of a ratepayer. I want to see him in front of the Council." To this letter a reply was sent stating that the Council could not grant her an interview.

In January, 1932, the defendant addressed a letter to the Chairman and Council containing a number of serious allegations about Mr. Stewart. It was alleged that he had taken for his own use a number of articles, being the property of the Council, such as gas mantles, electric lamps, paint and matches, and that he had also altered wage sheets.

Mr. Stewart consulted N.A.L.G.O., and the Association's solicitor wrote to the defendant asking her for a full and unqualified apology. In reply, the defendant wrote: "*Re* Stewart and myself. As a ratepayer my complaints are justified and I have nothing to retract." On April 7, 1932, the defendant wrote to the Chairman and Councillors a letter repeating the charges previously made against Mr. Stewart, and also making charges of a similar character against Mr. Crossley. On Mr. Crossley reporting the matter to N.A.L.G.O., the Association's solicitors again communicated with the defendant, and once more she replied that her complaints were true and justifiable.

An action for libel, with Messrs. Stewart and Crossley as plaintiffs, was then commenced against Mrs. Wilson. Subsequently, she wrote to the Wardle Council informing them that proceedings had been instituted against her, that she would defend herself in person, and that she would like to make a bet that neither Mr. Stewart nor Mr. Crossley dare go into court.

After evidence had been given by the plaintiffs and a number of witnesses called on their behalf, the defendant gave evidence, and afterwards addressed the jury. Mr. Goldie, K.C., in addressing the jury on behalf of the plaintiffs, said that it was a terrible matter for them to have to face the criminal charges that had been levelled against them, and that there was not a shred of justification in the case. He did not ask for heavy damages in the event of the verdict going in favour of his clients, the main object being to clear their characters, but at the same time he did not want the jury to fix a contemptuous sum. He desired them to fix such a reasonable sum as would indicate to the world that they were satisfied that the charges ought never to have been made.

The Verdict

Reviewing the evidence, Mr. Goldie referred to two of the letters which had been quoted during the case as "cruel and vindictive libels pursued with the utmost venom up to the last moment."

The Judge having summed up, the jury, after a brief retirement, returned a verdict in favour of the plaintiffs, and awarded each plaintiff £40 damages. Mr. Goldie then applied for an injunction restraining the defendant from further publishing the libels. His Lordship replied that he did not think that an injunction was necessary. The defendant had had her fight and, in any event, an injunction in a case of that kind would be exceedingly difficult to draw out. The jury had given a very reasonable verdict. No doubt had they not been asked to be moderate they would have given heavier damages. Judgment was then given for the plaintiffs with damages of the above-mentioned amount and costs.

CRICKET FIXTURES

The Bridgend Branch has recently formed a Sports and Recreation Section, and the Cricket Club anticipates a successful season. The Secretary, at the Water Board Offices, Bridgend, would be pleased to hear from any N.A.L.G.O. teams in the South Wales area desirous of arranging fixtures. A knock-out cricket competition has been proposed by the Porthcawl Branch.

Why not your Health?

If it is wise to insure your life and worldly goods, why not your health? Money cannot buy good health, but insurance can remove the expense of illness. The

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will make a substantial payment during illness for a small monthly contribution.

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3	0	21	0
4	0	28	0
5	0	35	0
6	0	42	0
7	0	49	0
8	0	56	0
9	0	63	0

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MIDDLESEX PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY

The Middlesex County Officers' Philharmonic Society, now in its second year, is showing itself worthy to follow in the high tradition set by its professional contemporaries. The second annual invitation concert of the Society was held at 10 Great George Street, Westminster, on April 10, the programme embodying Beethoven's No. 1 Symphony, pleasingly played by the orchestra, and an admirable choral rendering of Stanford's "Revenge." The conductor, Mr. W. A. Funnell, and the choir-master, Mr. H. E. S. Bickerton, have done splendid work in building up the orchestra and choir in the short life of the society, and the third annual concert is anticipated with keen interest.

USE THE CORRESPONDENCE COLUMNS

BRANCH AND DISTRICT NEWS

UNPAID AND PAID

"The local government of England is the envy of the world," a speaker declared at the third annual dinner of the West Middlesex Branch of the National Association of Local Government Officers, held at Uxbridge, while other speeches by councillors showed that the municipal staffs in the area of the branch (Uxbridge, Yiewsley and Hayes) are of the highest standard in their service to the community.

The toast of "Local Government" was proposed by Mr. F. R. Finch, chairman of the Metropolitan District Committee of N.A.L.G.O. The work of local government, he said, touched the lives of the people. He was afraid, however, that neither the work of councillors nor the officers was appreciated in the manner it should be. No commodity which could be purchased gave such a good return for the money as did rates, and on the other hand no service caused so much trouble or concern if suspended or abolished. Local government gave better conditions of life, better roads, open spaces for recreation, schools for education, and so on right up to the idealistic point of encouraging civic pride. Local government was the gentle art of living together.

Mr. Finch discussed the increasing amount of work that was being placed on the shoulders of local authorities. In the last thirty years, 275 Acts of Parliament had been passed, and in the last three years benevolent Ministries had inflicted 267 Orders, accompanied by explanatory memoranda as to how all these were to be administered. The Government knew that local authorities were capable of interpreting and administering their wishes, and he felt that councillors and officers could alike take credit for the way the work was carried out, and in this connection he was impelled to pay a tremendous tribute to "the great unpaid"—the men and women who gave of their best in public service.

NORTH RIDING COUNTY BRANCH

Owing to the large increase in membership in the County Hall at Northallerton, it has been decided to transfer the headquarters of the North Riding County Branch from Guisborough to the County Hall. The branch is making steady progress, and it is anticipated that before long the majority of the North Riding County Officers will have entered into membership.

The officers at Guisborough deserve an expression of appreciation for the splendid work which they have done, particularly Mr. Blackett and Mr. Scarth, who have acted hitherto as Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer; their interest will still be as keen as previously.

WIMBLEDON'S SUCCESSFUL DANCE

The dance organised by the Wimbledon Branch, and held in the Ball Room at the new Town Hall on Saturday, March 4, 1933, in aid of the B. & O. and Local Branch Funds, was attended by over seven hundred persons, including the Mayor and Mayoress, the President of the Branch, Mr. T. Webster, Borough Engineer and Surveyor, and other members of the Council. During the interval the company were entertained on the Grand Organ by Mr. Reginald Foort, the well-known broadcasting organist. The ball room, which possesses one of the finest spring floors in London, was tastefully decorated with flowers. The organisers desire to express their sincere thanks to members of neighbouring branches for their support.

Mr. Wilfred Haynes, Librarian of the Kensal Rise Public Library, Willesden, who was recently appointed Borough Librarian of Eastbourne, was elected a Fellow of the Library Association in 1919, and is a past president of the Society of Public Librarians. He is a member of the Metropolitan District Committee of N.A.L.G.O. and ex-Chairman of the Willesden Council Staff Association.

GOOLE N.A.L.G.O. FUNCTION

The joint inaugural whist drive and dance held by the Goole branch of the Association and the Goole Branch of the West Riding County Officers' Association, in the Crescent Hall, Goole, was an outstanding success. Mr. H. Allen, chairman of the West Riding County Officers' Association, and a member of the National Executive Council, proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. J. W. Pullon, who had graciously presented the prizes. The guests included the majority of the Council and chief officers, together with the staff of the Goole Urban and Rural District Councils, and the local departments of the West Riding C.C.

DAGENHAM DINNER AND DANCE

Mr. W. P. Fox, representing Headquarters, Mr. F. R. Finch (Chairman of the Metropolitan District Committee), and the chairman and many members of the Council were the guests of the Dagenham Branch at their annual dinner and dance, held at Ilford recently. Mr. Fox proposed the toast of the branch, the branch President, Mr. G. Evans Jones, responding. The toast of the Council and other visitors was proposed by Mr. J. Jones (Chairman, Social Committee), the Chairman of the Council, Mrs. M. Rothwell, J.P., stating in response how welcome was the opportunity of meeting the staff on social grounds. Mr. G. T. Carter (Vice-President) proposed "The President," the response being made in Welsh.

"TOTTALGO" REFLECTIONS.

In launching the first issue of "Tottalgo Reflections," the Tottenham Branch of N.A.L.G.O. are actuated by a desire to foster good relations between its departments and to promote a closer bond of friendship and confidence between individual members. The success of the venture is assured while such a worthy motive inspires its producers. An attractive cover bearing the imprint of the Town Hall, Tottenham, binds ten pages of interesting material collected from various sources.

ERRATUM.—In the April issue of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE it was reported that the Hammersmith Borough Council had decided to continue the scale of deductions which had been imposed. This statement appears to have been incorrect, as the matter is still under consideration.

(Continued on page 143)

NALGO BUILDING SOCIETY
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

Owing to the phenomenal success experienced by the Society since it was established in 1932, it is unnecessary to place any restrictions on the amount which members of N.A.L.G.O. or their wives can invest. The Society is prepared to accept large or small investments. The rates of interest given are:

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INTEREST 5%

Further particulars can be obtained from the Branch Officers or from the

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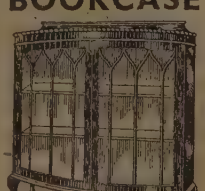

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DISTRICT NEWS

(Continued from page 141)

N. WESTERN AND N. WALES DISTRICT

A meeting of the N. Western and N. Wales District Committee was held at the Art Gallery, Southport, on April 8. The delegates, about 180 in number, were welcomed by the Mayor of Southport, Councillor G. E. Hardman, J.P., supported by Mr. W. Allanach, B.Sc., Director of Education, and President of the Southport Branch.

Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, Chairman of the District Committee, presided. The Agenda for the forthcoming conference at Folkestone was considered, the Committee approving the granting of assistance to three branches to enable them to be represented.

Economy Deductions

The Divisional Secretary, Mr. Haden Corser, reported the result of negotiations with the Lancashire and Cheshire Whitley Council in regard to economy deductions. The Staffs' side had, he said, taken the line that the national emergency having passed, there was no justification for a continuation of the deductions. Two full day meetings were held without any definite decision being reached, the Staffs' side having prepared and submitted to the employers a full statement of their case supported by statistical evidence. At a subsequent meeting it was agreed between the parties that half the deduction on the first £250 of any salary should be restored to all the officers affected by the Whitley Council decision in the area for the period of six months commencing April 1.

A deputation to the Ministry of Health on superannuation was reported, especially in regard to the position at Church U.D.C. (where the Council had adopted the 1922 Act but refused to designate posts of officers over 55 years of age), and at Liverpool in regard to designation of posts.

BRANCH PUBLICATION

A branch that can report "pressure of space" in publishing its monthly organ is indeed fortunately placed. Bromley Branch are in this happy position. "Bronal," as the 28-page issue is designated, is meant to interest every class of officer, and, for a new venture, the publication promises great things.

WHERE TO STAY

BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. Clark, "Homelea," 54 Burlington Road (adjacent new prom. S.S.). Select apartments, 3s. per night (2 persons). Full board, 7s. 6d. each. Comfort guaranteed.

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Candidates wishing to present themselves must make application before May 15, 1933. Full particulars and forms may be obtained from the Registered Office.

J. STIRLING BROWN, C.R.A.,
Secretary.

Registered Office :—
121 West George Street,
Glasgow, C.2.

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Plants and Rock Gardens," "Hardy Perennials and Herbaceous Borders," "Garden Trees and Shrubs," etc.

TROUBLE sometimes occurs at this time of year with young box and pot plants which have been properly watered and ventilated, yet still do badly. A cause often entirely unsuspected is acidity of the compost used. Sometimes the acidity is in the turfy loam which constitutes the greater part of the compost, sometimes in the sand. The trouble is probably more common where the turf used was stacked at home than where the compost was bought from a florist ready mixed. Florists have learned by experience that when stacking turf in autumn it is wise to spread lime between each two layers for the purpose, among other things, of reducing acidity; but amateurs are not in all cases so well informed. They should remember that lime cannot do harm when so used and generally does good, especially when the turf has been cut from sandy land. But non-acid loam may be spoiled by the addition of acid sand, and it is wise in case of doubt to buy sand from a florist who obtains it from Bedfordshire. Assurance is made doubly sure if half a pint of sulphate of potash is mixed with every bushel of compost.

Can excess of acid in soil be detected? Yes. Not so many years ago the agricultural and horticultural colleges recommended applications of muriatic (hydrochloric) acid diluted with an equal quantity of water; and horticultural writers felt impelled to follow suit. But the method proved unreliable—unfortunately so—because it was both simple and cheap. The argument was, that as soil containing plenty of lime cannot be acid, and as carbonate of lime effervesces readily under muriatic acid, the only thing necessary to ascertain whether or not lime was present was to apply the solution and note the presence or absence of bubbles. With bubbles, lime present. Without bubbles, lime absent. There was a "snag," which arose from the fact that other substances besides lime effervesce under muriatic acid, and, therefore, there may be bubbles where there is no lime.

More reliable indicators, notably the B.D.H. which chemists and florists supply, should be used. They are as sure as litmus paper in revealing acidity and better adapted to use with soil, as small quantities of loam or compost may be placed on a piece of blotting-paper and the liquid dripped on slowly till it percolates through and is absorbed by the blotting-paper. The rest is a matter of colour-changes, red meaning acidity, blue alkalinity, green neutrality. Stages between yellow and red indicate degrees of acidity and deep red means danger. A shilling or two expended on this test, which is interesting in itself, may prove to be a profitable outlay.

Many young plants intended for summer beauty in beds and borders need attention now, and among them I would particularly mention Dahlias, Gladioli, Antirrhinums and Begonias. Dahlias are best in small pots, and, if kept in well-ventilated frames safe from late frosts, and watered as needed, they will root well, remain sturdy, and be in fine condition for planting out late in May or in June, according to the district. They will need stopping to prevent their running up. Gladioli which are being sprouted in shallow boxes ought to be growing vigorously now and may be planted out on a sandy base in showery weather; 9 inches from corm to corm will suit, and there should be 4 inches of soil above the corm, because there will then be less tendency for the stems to bend over, although in any case staking is advisable.

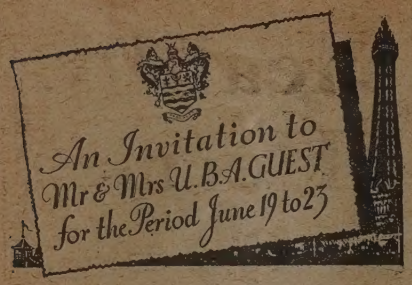
I referred to autumn-sown Antirrhinums in my April notes: spring-sown plants ought to be hardy enough to go out in May, as they are much hardier than Dahlias: one foot apart will do. Do not forget to lime the soil for them. Tuberous Begonias which are being sprouted in pots or boxes may be expected to grow more slowly than Gladioli, and, being more tender, June planting is desirable, the operation to be completed if possible with a mulch of short decayed manure or leaf-mould, both of which Begonias love. This mulching may attract birds, which scratch about it in for tender insect morsels, and, in doing so, often scatter it on the paths, to the annoyance of the neat gardener. However, though a bother it is a minor one.

It should be practicable to plant out half-hardy annuals (including perennials treated as such), which have been raised under glass and are now hardening in frames—often unduly crowded in their pots or boxes—during this month, earlier or later according to the district. Stocks are hardier than most things and may go in first; Zinnias more tender and, therefore, to be planted last. Between come such things as Asters, Nemesias, Gaillardias, Lobelias, Marigolds, Mimuluses, Nicotianas (Tobaccos), Phloxes, Petunias, Statices, Tagetes and Verbenas. The amateur who is desirous of trying a few special things might consider Dimorphothecas, Salpiglossis, Schizanthuses, Ursinias and Venidiums, all of which are attractive things well worth growing.

Felicia Bergeriana, the Kingfisher Daisy, is a dainty little blue-flowered annual, and, being nearly hardy, might be sown out of doors. Many hardy annuals may still be sown in the open, and in addition to such stock subjects as Candytufts, Clarkias, Godetias, Larkspurs, Lupins, Nasturtiums, Poppies, Sweet Peas, etc., I would mention as less common plants that are really good Calandrinias, Gilias, Ionopsidium (Violet Cress, only 3-4 inches high), Jacobaeas, Lavateras, Leptosiphons, Limnanthes, Phacelias, Portulacas, Schizopetalon (6 inches high, very fragrant white flowers) and Viscarias.

As regards things to be sown soon for next year, such as Wallflowers, Forget-me-Nots, Sweet Williams, and Canterbury Bells, let me remind readers that two perennials, Pansies and Lupinus polyphyllus hybrids, will probably yield a proportion of flowers this autumn if sown in May or early June. Delphiniums are unlikely to do so, but will make sturdy plants for next year if sown soon in the open. Aquilegias are slow starters and ought to be sown soon, but even so they may not flower until the year after next, that is, till the third year.

Some people winter bedding Pansies in frames, but I prefer the open air, where the plants root better if the soil contains a good proportion of manure or leafmould and the site is not too exposed. Gaillardias of the choice modern varieties are apt to disappoint, and I think the best way to deal with them is to sow in heat late in winter and harden them in frames for summer flowering. They are undoubtedly very useful for cutting as well as for garden display, and are, therefore, worthy of special care.



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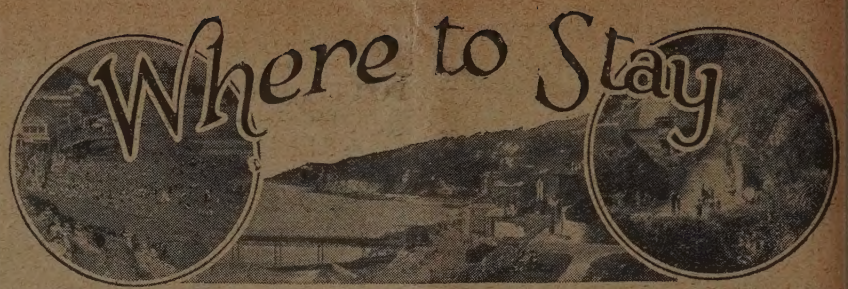

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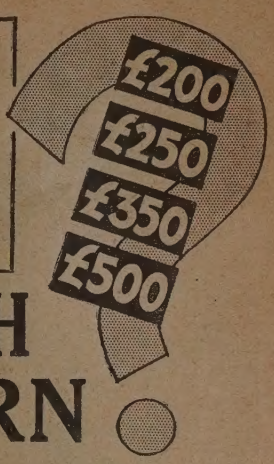

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